

**\$260,000 Savings**

2/4/63

# SL River Flood Control Proves Worth In Storm

Construction of the San Lorenzo river flood control project saved an estimated \$260,000 damages in Santa Cruz during last week's storm, according to preliminary estimates by the army corps of engineers.

Colonel John A. Morrison, district engineer for San Francisco district, told The Sentinel today that observer teams are still in the field and that the current figures are based on preliminary estimates and could go higher.

During the storm, the peak flow in the San Lorenzo river Thursday was 14,000 cubic feet per second, the fourth highest reading in the past 25 years. Flow in Branciforte creek was 3000 cubic feet per second at peak.

The hydrograph reports and field checks show that an estimated \$200,000 worth of damage was prevented along Branciforte creek and \$60,000 along the San Lorenzo in the city.

Excepting an estimated flood level flow of more than 3200 cubic feet per second on Newell creek which now is contained in

the city's Newell Creek reservoir, the San Lorenzo flow would have been the third highest on record since the hydrographs were started in 1937.

On April 2, 1958, a record of the Newell Creek flow reported 3230 second feet, according to Wes Weber, city water department director. If this was added to the flow in the San Lorenzo (as it was in 1955) the flow would have exceeded 17,000 cubic feet per second, the third highest in the recorded history of the San Lorenzo river.

The record flow in the San Lorenzo occurred December 23 at the peak of the Christmas floods when a measurement of 28,800 second feet was made.

Other high readings include: February 27, 1940, 24,000 second feet; February 9, 1941, 15,500; January 12, 1952, 14,900 and January 21, 1943, 13,900 cubic feet per second.

Hydrograph records from the Big Trees station on the San Lorenzo go back to 1937.