

Information on the Water Situation in Santa Cruz and Plans to Correct it

WATER REVENUE BOND ELECTION

November 4, 1958

The facts included in this brochure are taken from the engineering reports of engineering firms Creegan and D'Angelo (dam), and Brown and Caldwell (treatment plant) as approved by the Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and by the Santa Cruz City Water Commission and City Council.

PRESENT STATUS OF WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT PLANT

Quantity

There have been no additions to the Santa Cruz water supply for 30 years.

During this time water consumption has nearly trebled.

The supply, in relationship to demand, has reached and passed the danger point.

Only heavy late rains prevented water rationing this year.

A serious water shortage could occur next year or any year—following just a fairly dry winter. Present supply would be totally inadequate for normal, inevitable population growth, even during "wet" years.

Quality

The California Department of Public Health has branded the Santa Cruz water treatment system as inadequate.

This state department has granted the Santa Cruz city water system its permit to operate, in recent years, only on its assurance that corrective measures will be taken.

WHAT WILL THE PROPOSED PROJECT PROVIDE?

A modern treatment plant both for present water and for additional water.

A dam and reservoir to insure an additional safe and dependable water supply of 1,303,000,000 gallons per year, which is a 65% addition to the present consumption which averages 2,000,000,000 gallons per year.

endorsed this plan are: two well known engineering firms, Creegan and D'Angelo, and Brown and Caldwell; the City Water Department Director; the Santa Cruz Water Commission; the Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District; the San Lorenzo Valley County Water District; the City Council; the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors; and the Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Once the project has been authorized by the voters, a request will be made to the Division of Dams of the State Department of Water Resources, which must also approve the dam site and final plans for the dam before any work may be done. The California Department of Public Health must approve final plans for the treatment plant before it can be built. No difficulty in securing these approvals is anticipated, once the voters have authorized this project.

WILL PASSAGE OF THE BOND ISSUE INCREASE TAXES OR WATER RATES?

No. These are revenue bonds, so that taxes are not involved. The City Council, on recommendation of the Water Commission, recently authorized an increase in water rates, the first raise in nearly 9 years, which will be in effect regardless of the outcome of the bond issue election. Costs of maintaining and operating the water system have nearly doubled (87% increase) since the rate increase of 9 years ago. Rates here, with the increase, remain lower than those of neighbors in Monterey and various Peninsula cities, as well as in many other

600,000 gallons per day

WHAT FACILITIES WILL BE CREATED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS?

NEWELL CREEK DAM AND RESERVOIR — an earthfill dam about 1½ miles upstream from Ben Lomond.

THE WATERSHED — 2,162 acres on Newell Creek above the dam, to be purchased from the San Lorenzo Valley County Water District.

THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT — an adequate modern plant, built to acceptable health standards, to be located ¾ mile north of city limits on bluff west of Graham Hill Road. Will process entire water supply of Santa Cruz. Will be so constructed that capacity can later be increased.

THE PIPELINES—new pipelines to: (1) deliver San Lorenzo River and coastal stream water to new treatment plant; (2) deliver Newell Creek reservoir water to treatment plant; and (3) deliver treated water to connection with existing mains.

THE COST

The cost figures are realistic, based upon careful studies and consultations with qualified engineers. A reserve fund for contingencies is also included in the total cost figure. Costs indicated here are based upon passage of the bond issue at this election, making possible prompt construction of the project, at current price levels. Costs of this type of construction have been increasing 5 to 7½% each year, which could amount to a third of a million dollars per year in added costs if bond issue authorization were to be delayed and if present cost trends continue.)

Newell Creek Dam and Reservoir	\$1,400,000
The Watershed	220,000
Water Treatment Plant	1,990,000
Pipelines	1,450,000
Revisions to Present Pumping Plant	140,000
Reserve Fund	300,000

TOTAL ----- \$5,500,000

HAVE OTHER PLANS BEEN INVESTIGATED?

Yes, countless hours of study have been given, over a period of many months, to a study of various possible or suggested plans. Other solutions have been discarded after study, principally because of their much greater cost. The present plan has been unanimously adopted by the City Water Commission and the City Council as being the most economical adequate solution.

Among the individuals and agencies who have

parts of the state.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BOND ISSUE IS NOT APPROVED?

No community can live without an adequate water supply, and means of financing must be found somehow. Through prompt approval of a bond issue, the necessary facilities may be constructed economically, as a unit, at present price levels, and with the cost spread out over a period of 30 or 40 years. If the voters did not authorize the borrowing of funds to make this possible, efforts would doubtless have to be made to do what has to be done on a piece-meal basis, financed entirely out of current income from water rates, or through taxes. This would be uneconomical and could lead to further water rate increases, or even to tax increases, because the total cost for the work, as it was done, would have to be loaded on to current city income available at the time the work was accomplished. It would appear, however, that some procedure of this type would be the alternative if voters do not approve borrowing, through bonds, in order to spread out the cost over a period of years.

WILL THERE BE RECREATIONAL USE OF THE NEW RESERVOIR?

Yes, there will be limited recreational use, principally fishing from row boats. Recreational use of Newell Creek below the dam will also be improved, as most of its water will be impounded by the dam during the rainy season, but there will be a guaranteed year-round flow in the creek in conformity with a ruling of the State Department of Fish and Game.

WILL THE BOND ISSUE HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CAMPUS SITE? ON TOURIST AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY?

Yes. University officials know that the present water supply of Santa Cruz is inadequate, even for normal needs. Failure to correct this situation could end all chance of the selection of Santa Cruz as the University site. Water shortages or threatened shortages would, of course, seriously curtail tourist business . . . New industries normally refuse to consider a city in which there is a critical water deficiency. Loss of these heavy taxpaying industries to lighten the tax load would mean that home owners would have to bear a disproportionate share. Taxes are generally highest in "bed room" communities in which home owners have to bear most of the tax costs.

The November 4 Santa Cruz water vote should not be confused in any way with a water election to be held the same day, FOR AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PURPOSE, in MONTEREY!