

Desalination Board To Weigh Desalting Plant

11-5-70

By WALLACE WOOD
Sentinel Staff Writer

First it was the A-plant. Now it's the D-plant.

County supervisors and Santa Cruz city officials are worried about them both, bringing good or bad to Davenport, Santa Cruz and the rest of the county.

The A-plant, of course, is the proposed Pacific Gas and Electric Company atomic power plant to generate electricity.

The D-plant is a multi-million-dollar plant for desalting sea water, using the waste heat from the A-plant. It would be the world's largest.

If built at Davenport, it would supply up to five times the water now used daily by the City of Santa Cruz.

Besides Davenport, such a plant also is being considered for a tie-in to PG&E's present Moss Landing power plant.

Supervisors have set a public hearing for Nov. 18 at 10:30 a.m. to decide if they want to join the city in spending \$3,000 for a study of the desalting plant.

Purifying sea water has been a dream of engineers for decades, to bring fresh water to

areas of the world that have a shortage of it.

Santa Cruz County is not short of water, but is being considered as one of seven California sites for a desalting plant because of the atomic power plant. It would be a pilot plant, producing as much as 50,000 acre-feet of water per year. An acre-foot is one acre of water one foot deep.

The plant would solve some of Santa Cruz County's water worries.

It could eliminate two future damsites, both of which are now a problem to the county, ac-

cording to Ed Harn, the county's water expert. The two sites are the Aptos Creek-Nisene Marks Park dam, and the Glenwood reservoir on a branch of Soquel Creek.

But it could supply such an abundance of water that the entire coastline for miles north and south of Davenport would be opened up to subdivision development, Supervisor Henry Mello warned Tuesday.

"This could wipe out the coastline from Santa Cruz to Half Moon Bay," Mello said. "We could have an atomic power plant here." (Continued on Page 2)

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Desalting Plant Study Role Eyed By County

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er plant without developing the coast. But if we have a desalting plant, then God help us!"

Mello said a rough figure for developers is that an acre of subdivision requires an acre-foot of water. So 50,000 acre-feet of water could supply 50,000 acres of development.

But it doesn't have to be this way, answered Hanna. The state Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Office of Saline Water want a ready market for a desalting plant by the time it is built — about 1980.

The readiest market is the City of Santa Cruz water system.

A pipeline already takes water from Majors and Laguna Creeks below Davenport and Liddell Spring near Bonny Doon down to the city system along the coast. The city and county wa-

ter master plans call for another pipeline there.

Since the D-plant produces nearly pure distilled water, it must be mixed or treated with "normal" water to prevent pipe corrosion. So the pipelines could tie in together.

Hanna and city officials say that the D-plant would supply far more water than the city could use now. But the desire for water is growing, and the D-plant doesn't have to be as large as its maximum. "The state and federal people say it must supply at least 20,000 acre-feet to be feasible. Actually, about 35,000 acre-feet would be desirable."

Because the plant would be paid for by federal funds, it could save the county considerable money on damsites. The Aptos Creek site is doubtful as a reservoir location anyway, because it would flood a large section of Nisene Marks State Park — and the park donors have a clause in their grant deed which would force the state to give back the land if such a "non-park" use is allowed.

Glenwood is another problem. Dan Frobus, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, said Tuesday that the Glenwood damsite is "very vulnerable" to development by landowners, and must be bought soon if the county plans to save it.

Both Glenwood and Aptos Creek might be eliminated from the county water master plan by a desalting plant, Hanna said, though the \$3,000 study by the city and the county would answer that question more exactly. The city has voted already to pay \$1,000 of the study.

State officials must make a decision on two possible locations for the D-plant by Jan. 1 of next year, Hanna said. This is necessary in order to tie the planning in with power plant construction.

No decision is expected on the Davenport A-plant by January, but the state might go ahead with planning anyway, Hanna said.

Asked why the plant isn't being considered for water-thirsty Southern California, Hanna said this morning that no atomic power plants fit the "time scale" for construction in the

south. It is possible that a current fuel oil plant could be used to supply the heat for a D-plant, however.

The key to successful operation of a D-plant is plenty of cheap heat to boil the sea water and distill the minerals out of it.

The largest plant now in operation, a 4,250 acre-foot water supply plant at Rosarita Beach in Baja California, runs on fuel oil.

"The present cost is about \$1.20 per 1,000 gallons of water," said Hanna. "With free heat from a nuclear reactor, the cost probably would be less."

This is why the government wants to try a medium-sized D-plant with an atomic plant nearby. If successful in producing cheaper water, it would be the forerunner of even larger D-plants.

While Hanna regards the D-plant an opportunity for solving some water problems of Santa Cruz County, Supervisor Mello concluded Tuesday that a study would "just make it possible for the state and PG&E and everyone else to get their big feet in the door."

TROOP PULL BACK

WASHINGTON (AP) A United States Army Division that now guards about 18 miles of the Korean demilitarized zone, probably will be pulled back and put in reserve when American forces are reduced in South Korea, Pentagon sources say.

a Louise own With New Baby

Tina Louise, with 4-year-old baby, Caesar arms, leaves Lebanon hospital in Hollywood. The star is Les Crane, reality whom Miss Horning. She expects the final decree (AP Wirephoto)

e Continues

Palestinian guerrillas it is so occupied. The guerrillas are the guerrillas. King Hussein probably could not act against Israel. A cease-fire peace agreement in Israel. EST.

Yugoslavia and 20 Asian and African supporters of Egypt pushed a resolution through the General Assembly Wednesday calling for a 90-day extension and immediate resumption of the Jarring talks. The resolution was approved 57 to 16 with 39 abstentions. The United States and Israel opposed it.

e In Bakersfield

all traffic out of the area around the street from the complex which includes a County sheriff's building. made immediate

occurred at 10:30 p.m., injuring a man kept in the hospital a day. Officers may have been whomever

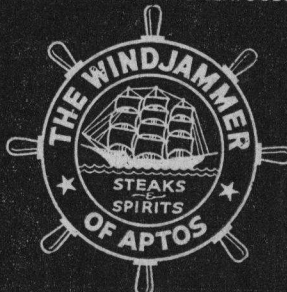
The blast destroyed one camper and damaged five. About 20 campers, designed to mount on pickup truck beds, had been stored in the lot after officers cracked a theft ring operating throughout Southern California.

Police presumed the explosions were involved with the case, in which seven persons are facing trial after indictment by the county grand jury.

The explosions blew debris more than two blocks away, officers said.

It was the second violent incident related to the theft ring.

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