

R.R. Calif & SC Water Crisis

Water Supply Recap: Good And Bad

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The news about water supplies and consumption in central and northern Santa Cruz County is both good and bad in

the aftermath of the summer's first hot spell.

A Sentinel survey of the water situation Friday the first in a series of weekly surveys planned throughout the summer - showed that customers of

the San Lorenzo Valley County Water District have something to cheer about, while patrons of the Scotts Valley County Water District face increasing pressure to conserve.

In the SLV district in the month of June, consumption was 50.95 million gallons, or about 14 million gallons less than the 64.96 million gallons available for use.

In the SV district, on the other hand, sharper penalties for violations of water use restrictions were set Thursday by district directors because consumption is far in excess of supplies.

Last Thursday, for example, which was not a warm day in Scotts Valley, the district customers used about 725,000 gallons, or about 25,000 gallons more than the district's wells produce daily.

SV District Manager Jack Hinds told the Sentinel Friday there there is just so much water available for use, that if this is exceeded the district will have no choice but to effect mandatory conservation by shutting off connections on a regular basis.

The Sentinel survey covered the City of Santa Cruz, the Citizens Utilities Co. in Felton, the Soquel Creek County Water District and the Central County Water District, as well as the SLV and SV water districts.

Generally, all water officials urged conservation and all noted there's a long way to go until water supplies can be re-

plenished by the autumn and winter rains.

The reports by the agencies follow.

SLV WATER DISTRICT - Bill Winner, district manager, noted that this will be the first July 4 in many years that no area of the district will be out of water. He added:

"All our tanks are full. There is full pressure in all lines. We are able to provide maximum fire protection."

Winner said that in June the grand total of water production by district wells came to 15.62 million gallons, or 39 per cent of the district's water production. Another 15.45 million gallons came from surface sources, i.e., Foreman, Harmon, Clear, Sweetwater and Earl creeks.

Then from its share of water impounded at Loch Lomond the district drew 19.87 million gallons in June.

Winner reported that of the district's annual allocation of 500 acre feet of water from Loch Lomond, it used in 1975-76 a total of 389.79 acre feet.

That portion not used by July 1 is lost to the district, for its allocation is 500 acre feet per fiscal year and there is no carryover of water not used.

This aspect of Winner's report is something of a bombshell because there are curbs on water use in SLV district because of a claimed shortage of supplies.

District Chairman Larry Kelly on Friday said of the water situation in general: "As

board president I am concerned primarily with medium- and long-term supply. The daily figures are the concern of the manager. As nearly as I can tell, the water situation looks reasonably well here. But I will do more analysis of the figures."

SV DISTRICT - District Manager Jack Hinds said that during the hot spell last Monday the district's reserve storage dropped to 350,000 gallons. That was built up to 425,000 gallons by Thursday, but then district patrons got careless and the reserve dropped to 400,000 by Friday.

"They used 725,000 gallons, in other words," Hinds said, "or 25,000 more than we could produce. What we wanted them to do was use much less than the 700,000 gallons.

"Our wells have now dropped to a daily production of 480 gallons per minute."

Hinds' report on this shows the well production has fallen some 10 gallons per minute from the production announced on June 15.

"We simply must conserve," Hinds stressed. "It is essential, there is no way out."

FELTON - Jim McCloud, manager for Citizens Utilities, reported:

"For the seven-day period ending Friday morning, which included the record heat wave, our customers used 4.22 million gallons, or about 88 per cent of production. We were able to keep tanks about 80 per cent

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full, but we want to do better for fire protection and other reasons.

"We believe people are becoming really concerned about water shortages and they are cooperating. We want sensible water use so that our customers won't have any problems this summer."

SOQUEL CREEK WATER

DISTRICT - Bob Johnson, district manager, reported:

"Generally, consumption was satisfactory in relationship to supply. But in Rio Del Mar there was very heavy use of water last Sunday and this resulted in very low pressure for many. We use three wells out there and they produce 1700 gallons per minute, but the use on Sunday was so heavy it could not be made up quickly.

"It would be better if the people did not decide to water their gardens and plants all at once before they go home from

weekends at their places in Rio Del Mar. We would rather have them water a bit throughout the weekend, rather than on one day.

CITY OF SANTA CRUZ - Morris Allen, city water director, reported:

Bicentennial Caloric Split

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Bicentennial salutes have taken many forms, but youngsters here may have come up with the most caloric Bicentennial treat yet: a 30-foot-long, foot-wide, Fourth of July banana split.

The idea appealed to the imagination - and the appetites - of the children at Los Angeles' Weymouth Science Center. And by the time they were finished Friday, they had a

"We consumed 101,322 million gallons last week, a little above the goal we had set, which was a consumption of 98 million gallons.

"In Loch Lomond we have 1.419 billion gallons. This is down 38 million gallons from the previous week, a little above the goal we had set, which was a draw of about 35 million gallons.

"The SLV water district consumed 6.58 million gallons, or about 20 acre feet."

Allen has consistently urged conservation, saying that if common sense prevails a water crisis for the city's water customers need not occur.

Allen's lead in conservation measures taken on behalf of the area's largest purveyor of water, has been saluted by Hinds of the SV district as "a good job" for all.

CENTRAL WATER DISTRICT - Manager Joe Silva reported:

"From Friday, June 25, through Thursday, July 1, we pumped 4.16 million gallons. People are using tremendous amounts of water. In a 72-hour period last weekend they used a million gallons. The year before for the same period they used only 500,000 gallons.

"Our system is holding up very well and we are using all our wells to keep up to par. We are pumping between 400 to 600 thousand gallons per day to keep even.

"The wells are holding up real good. I'm surprised and really happy about that.

"But the people are just going to have to start being very careful with water. If they use all we have, then who knows what will happen?"

'Bomb' Was Only A Hoax

Heartbeats quickened during Capitola's fireworks display Saturday when police discovered what they originally thought was an explosive but just turned out to be three cut-up sections of a broom handle

Differences In Medicare And Medicaid

What is the difference between Medicare and Medicaid?