

Flood Prevention

Weather Report



Temperature for 24-hour period ending at 8 a. m. today — Maximum 53, minimum 29.
Monterey Bay Area — Fair and warmer through tomorrow; gentle to light winds.

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL-NEWS

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Flood Control Bills Introduced

Sequel School **Include Levee**

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Include Levee System

Bills pledging state financial support of the proposed San Lorenzo river flood control project were introduced in the assembly and senate today by Assemblyman Glenn Coolidge and Senator Donald Grunsky.

The identical measures also authorize the city to enter into agreements with the army engineers for construction of the multi-million dollar levee system planned for the river and Branciforte creek.

Although the bills mention no specific sum, the state flood control act of 1945 authorizes state purchase of lands and right-of-ways for "approved" flood control projects.

Also introduced in both houses today by Grunsky and Coolidge was the 10-point program for flood relief agreed on yesterday by Coolidge's special committee on flood disaster relief.

Passage of the flood control bill will be another forward step in Santa Cruz' struggle for quick state and federal action on design and construction of the projected levee system.

Pending in congress are bills to provide \$207,000 for planning and an additional \$100,000 to get initial construction under way in fiscal 1957.

When the measures come up for hearings before Chairman Clarence Cannon's house appropriations committee the city probably will send one or more special emissaries to Washington to lend support to Gubser's pleas.

Gubser and Senators William F. Knowland and Thomas H. Kuchel have promised all-out support for the Santa Cruz project.

Under federal and state formulas, the state puts up the money for purchase of land and right-of-ways and the federal government pays 91.1 per cent of the actual construction costs, last estimated at \$2,665,000.

However, this figure undoubtedly will be hiked in view of rising costs and the decision to install a straight levee system rather than the originally-proposed combination wall-and-levee arrangement.

The balance of construction costs, 8.9 per cent, would have to be borne by the city or other "local" jurisdiction. Coolidge plans to introduce a bill that would shift this financial burden from flood-stricken cities like Santa Cruz and Yuba City to the state.

The 8.9 per cent local share of construction costs was originally computed at \$227,500 but it will rise in proportion to the overall cost of the project.

Just how much the levee system will cost will not be learned until the army completes design engineering.

The 10-point flood relief program introduced at Sacramento today provides generally for financial aid to flood-hit communities and tax relief for property owners.

It follows in substance Gov. Goodwin J. Knight's budget request for \$10 million to finance flood relief. Also among the 10 bills are measures to pay for restoration of public utilities and to create a \$5 million fund for local disaster relief.

Passage of the program would provide money to pay for at least part of the restoration work in progress at the city pumping plant on the San Lorenzo river.