

# Water Superin Study Of Three

## May Have To Ration Water This Summer Unless Rainfall Increases

By Betty Wixcey

"We have to do something and do it very soon; something expedient and something we can afford."

So City Water Commissioner Fred J. Morris summed up the commission's feeling after a joint meeting with the city council to hear Water Superintendent Weston Webber analyze a recently issued report from the state division of water resources.

The state report recommends projects to impound water to meet future requirements in Santa Cruz and north Monterey counties.

Pointing out that there must be a much more detailed investigation of any project before moving ahead, Webber suggested further study of three of the projects described in the state report as possible solutions to the city's water problems.

Urgency of taking some measure soon to building up the city's supply to meet summer peak demands in dry years was brought out in Webber's remark, "If the present pattern of low rainfall continues through the spring months, it is very likely that water rationing will be required in Santa Cruz next summer."

The city water superintendent distributed a report supplementing that of the state agency, by covering means necessary to treat and distribute water from the possible projects to develop water for city use, described in the state document.

Webber gave this rundown on costs and advantages of the three projects he believes should have further consideration:

Construction of a dam at Doyle gulch and pipeline delivery of water to the present city water treatment plant in the summer months.

Capital cost, including construction of the project and water treatment plant improvements, \$2,189,300; total fixed annual cost, \$96,598; additional annual cost, \$123,489. A rate increase of 20 to 25 per cent would be required to pay the additional annual cost.

"Flood waters stored in Doyle gulch reservoir would belong to the city. There would be no problem of releasing water for downstream water rights. Storage in the reservoir would afford a certain amount of natural purification, though treatment would still be required due to turbidity, tastes and odors caused by algae growths.

"Doyle gulch reservoir would provide an estimated safe seasonal yield of 6500 acre-feet which probably would suffice until 1980 when the next project should be considered."

Then, Webber continued, either the Glenwood or Upper Soquel project outlined in the state report could be constructed and the water delivered to Doyle gulch reservoir by gravity flow pipeline.

Construction of a dam at Zayante and stream bed delivery to the present treatment plant—Capital cost, including construction of the dam and reservoir and water treatment plant improvements, \$1599,400; fixed annual cost, \$70,577; additional annual cost, \$84,518. To pay the additional annual cost would require a rate increase of 10 to 15 per cent.

"Zayante reservoir would provide an estimated safe seasonal yield of 3900 acre-feet. With the additional water from other tributaries of the San Lorenzo river, this amount of water would probably suffice until 1980 when the next project would have to be considered."

After that, Webber suggested, the Bear Creek project or Waterman Switch dam could be constructed.

Flood water stored in the reservoirs would be water belonging to the city, he continued, adding releases of water during the summer months would introduce a dilution factor, reducing the pollution of the river.

In improvement of the water treatment plant, he recommended construction of the first three stages of the plan outlined in the Brown and Caldwell report, with the last two stages paid for out of revenue as money became available.

Construction of a dam on Laguna creek, below the present intake near Bald Mountain school, along with San Lorenzo river treatment plant improvements. — Capital cost, including the dam and reservoir, Laguna creek treatment plant and San Lorenzo river treatment plant

improvements, \$1,451,000; fixed annual cost, \$93,160; additional annual cost, \$73,160. A rate increase of about 10 per cent would be required to pay the additional annual cost.

"Bald Mountain school reservoir would have an estimated safe seasonal yield of 1800 acre-feet. Water from this reservoir could be delivered into the present pipeline on Laguna creek. Water treatment would be required before this water could be delivered to the city. Water from the San Lorenzo would still be required."

With a treatment plant with a capacity of four million gallons per day built near the junction with the pipe line from Liddell Spring, possibly a slow sand filtration plant, the project would furnish additional water in sufficient quantity to about 1965, he reported. The next project to be undertaken under this plan would be Zayante dam and reservoir.

After hearing Webber's report, Councilman Robert Burton expressed belief the proposals involving use of San Lorenzo river water "would meet serious objections from many people."

"Many have decided they are not going to drink out of the San Lorenzo river any more," Burton asserted. Conceding he represented a minority in objecting to San Lorenzo river water, Burton outlined a proposal of his own for bringing water from the east and west branches of the Soquel juncture by gravity into the proposed Doyle reservoir or to go into Big Creek to bring Mill and Big Creek water down.

"I am trying to find a way out of the San Lorenzo river," Burton said. "I am trying to get away from running water down a gutter. You can treat it so it can't kill you, but I'm after good water."

Morris, pointing to the reports from the state and city water departments, told Burton, "It is hard to throw out conclusions based on years of work by recognized authorities on the opinion of a layman."

"I am going to take the case to the people," Burton fired back. "Many experts have given us different plans. We are suffering from experts now."

Commissioner Bert Snyder Jr. declared, "The water commission is trying to get the best water we can for the city. We have to consider the price. If we can get water from the San Lorenzo treated to meet health department standards, I don't see why we shouldn't get the same water at less cost."

"It resolves itself into a matter of dollars and cents," Councilman George Penniman agreed.

Snyder and Mayor Clifford Dysle expressed belief development from Scotts Creek would be ideal "if we could afford it."

Webber told the joint meeting it probably would be necessary to form a water district to handle a project the size of the Scotts Creek proposal outlined in the state report.

City manager Robert Klein questioned necessity for a project of that scope, pointing out, "We are merely trying to provide enough water to meet our needs in a dry year." Surplus water at high cost of development would be an extravagance, he explained.

Financing the proposals for any of the projects under consideration discussed last night included issuance of revenue bonds, formation of a water district or entering into a contract with other water systems to wholesale water.

"The whole thing is, the people's ability to pay for water or anything else is limited," Klein asserted. "Any project you pick should be for a minimum amount."

Klein pointed out that revenue bonds to finance it would throw less pressure on the taxpayer by taking in a broader tax base. All city water system users should share the cost, he observed, adding that way the cost would be paid by double the population inside the city limits.

Construction of a dam on Laguna creek, blow the present intake near Bald Mountain school, along with San Lorenzo river treatment plant improvements — Capital cost, including the dam and reservoir, Laguna creek treatment plant and San Lorenzo river treatment plant

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At the close of the joint meeting to hear and discuss Webber's report, the city water commissioners held a short business session. Agreeing the reports before them are now a good basis for making their recommendation, members of the commission also agreed the recommendation to the city council should be made soon.

Commission Chairman Walter Richey opined the ultimate