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121st Year No. 49

water Supply

County Approves Save Water Plan

By PAUL BEATTY
Sentinel Staff Writer

A countywide program to get free water saving devices into as many households as possible was unanimously approved by county supervisors this morning.

Cost of the program could reach \$567,000, with the local commitment from \$15,000 to \$65,000

when implemented, the program could save as much as six to 10 million gallons a day, Lois Wyckoff told the board.

Wyckoff is the county coordinator in

Wyckoff is the county coordinator in charge of the program, initiated by Supervisor Gary Patton a few weeks ago.

Although receiving warm support from four members of the board, county staff and the Santa Cruz Board of Realtors, the program elicited some questions of concern from Supervisor Phil Baldwin and from the County Employment Commission.

Commission Chairman Dawn Badger wrote the board that its proposed use of Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) workers "be funded with the county's portion of allocation" from CETA funds, according to the commission's recommendation.

Supervisor Cecil Smith countered that the board of supervisors "should maintain the priority" of the water saving program and joined the rest of the board in agreement that the \$442,000 needed for 85 CETA workers in the water saving program "should be taken from the top" of the county's \$1.2 million in public service federal funds.

Commissioner Pat Pirlte told the board,

Commissioner Pat Pirlte told the board, "You could cut the cost of this by one-half," but Smith countered, "I agree there could be a savings, if we stretched this out over five years."

Baldwin threw a little cold water on the board's enthusiasm by questioning the spending of "\$100,000 on plastic bottles."

He asked that staff investigate the use of recycled plastic bottles for displacement of water in toilet water tanks, and Wyckoff answered that the staff would buy from a recycling company.

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postpone the med believed the U.S. asked them to int

Save Water Plan Gets County OK

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She also agreed that the 16 distribution locations to be set up around the county could serve as a gathering place for plastic bottles to be given out to other households.

Wyckoff pointed out the basic program would use the 85 CETA workers to distribute devices and run an educational campaign.

She said that since the county has been designated a "pilot project" the state was expected to fund from \$60,000 to \$110,000 of the costs of buying the devices.

It was also noted that the state may designate the types of of devices to be used. Current county recommendations are for the plastic bottles and low-use shower heads.

Patton said he was concerned along with Baldwin about bringing so much plastic into the county, "But it will produce a genuine, significant savings, plus bring about a program that for once will show the government is used for a tool to solve a basic problem."

The distribution and educa-

The distribution and educational program will run from mid-April through September, and the goal is to install the devices in at least 40,000 of the county's 60,000 households.

Wyckoff and the rest of the county staff that worked on the program was commended "for their excellent program," by Patton and the other board members.

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