

Water Rationing Hurting Many Motels

By BILL NEUBAUER
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The city's water rationing ordinance is hurting many of the motels that cater to the vital tourist business here, the County Convention and Visitors Bureau directors were told Wednesday by Hank Smith, a motel operator.

An appeal for more realistic water allocations and an adjustment of heavy overuse penalties incurred by some motels will go to the Santa Cruz City Council.

One small motel has incurred a \$7,000 fine over a two-month period, and others have gotten big fines, according to Barbara Klein, CVB manager.

Tom Deveau, CVB chairman and manager of the Dream Inn, reported that the Dream Inn has been able to get along within its allocation but that others are hurting.

Commentary to the directors was bitter at times, with suggestions the city water department was less cooperative than it ought to be in keeping the backbone of the local tourist industry healthy during the drought period.

Morris Allen, Santa Cruz water director, this morning denied to The Sentinel that his department has in effect told any of the motels to rent rooms without sanitation facilities or to close down.

Allen said that under the city's emergency rationing law, the motels, like all other businesses, are given a basic allocation of 70 per cent of their 1975 use.

There are provisions in this law for variances, so that allocations may be increased for qualified individuals or businesses, Allen said.

If any of the motels expanded physically since 1975 they would qualify for more water under the law, he pointed out as an example.

cent decrease in the number of reported crimes.

jail for the county, Noren clearly expressed his lack of support

supporters of the current jail as "moongazers," Noren said that

trial and lack of cooperation

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The law does not allow a variance to be given because of increased occupancy, however, Allen said.

"We in the department do not have authority from the Santa Cruz City Council to allow more water because of increased occupancy," Allen said. "A vari-

ance of that sort would have to be granted by the council."

Allen said his department staff has talked with two different groups of motel owners and that they were given the following advice on alternatives to follow to ease their problems:

1. Put in all water-saving devices mandated by the ordinance.
2. Set pressure reducing devices down to the lowest level to obtain a flow that is adequate for the purpose of meeting needs without wastage.
3. If the two previously given

Court Decision Could Modify Civil Service Panel Action

A court decision expected Friday could modify initial action taken by the County Civil Service Commission this week to reinstate a social services worker to a position eliminated by supervisors during budget hearings in June.

On Tuesday, the commission moved to reinstate Rosemarie

Teeter to her supervisor's job in the department, saying the county board should have met and conferred with the county personnel director and the department chief prior to cutting her position.

The commission meets tonight at 7 in the civil defense room at county center. How-

ever, it is expected that county counsel will ask it to hold off final action until a decision is reached in the district attorney's suit against the county board.

The DA is suing to prevent the elimination of his deputy public defender, also dropped at budget hearing.

Bonny Doon Fire Benefit

The Annual Benefit Barbeque of the Bonny Doon Fire Team will be Aug. 20 from 2 to 7 p.m. at the firehouse, 975 Martin Road.

Featuring a steak dinner, donations of \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for children is asked to help in the purchase fire and rescue equipment for the squad.

Landlord Meet On Assistance Set

Landlords interested in receiving guaranteed rent for their property are invited to an informational workshop Aug. 20 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Veterans Building, 820 Front St.

The major topic will be the Section 8 program of federally-assisted housing.

Panelists will be Rodmar

Pulley, executive director of the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz; Sal Solinas, rural housing coordinator; Gene Huffman, Section 8 coordinator for the county, and Tom Pohle, director of PROD who will explain how to qualify for low-interest loans for property repair.

For further information, call 425-2471.

alternatives do not suffice, consider reduction of services, providing tub but not shower facilities.

4. As a last resort, cut down on the number of rooms rented so that the established allocation of 70 per cent of 1975 water use by the motel cannot be exceeded.

"We did not tell them to close," Allen said.

Klein reported that the tourist business has been good for some motels, less good for others, and that many of the operators are saying business has not been as good as they had expected, because of the drought.

She said that for some of the smaller motels to cut down on the number of rooms rented would be to create conditions that might force some to close.

"The motel industry has done everything and is doing everything it can to conserve water," Klein said.

"It should be noted that the industry accounts for only 1.9 per cent of total water consumption while contributing importantly to the economic well-being of this area.

"The industry now pays increased taxes and increased wages. To cope, they depend upon volume."

Klein said that from 40 to 45 motels serve the tourist business here and that most, but not all, are CVB members.

The city council is the final authority on allocations to be permitted under the emergency ordinance. It acts as an appeals board as well as the city's sole legislative body.

In cases covered by the emergency law, Allen and his staff are permitted to issue variances in conformance with established criteria.

In the case of the motels' problems involving increased occupancy, the request for variances solely for those reasons must be handled by the council, Allen said.