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Desalting Plant Hearing Set

Desalination

Water, and plenty of it. That's the promise of the desalting plant.

Tuesday night at 7:30, county supervisors will hear state experts explain the D-plant proposal for the Davenport area. Supervisors will decide whether to join the City of Santa Cruz in a \$3,000* study of the effect such a plant would have on local water supplies.

Santa Cruz County is one of more than a half-dozen sites being considered for the large D-plant, which uses waste heat from an atomic reactor or other power plant to purify sea water.

By using waste heat, the cost

of purifying water can be made more competitive with the cost of regular water, experts expect.

So pure is the water produced that it must be mixed with normal drinking water to avoid quick corrosion of pipes and lines.

The State Department of Water Resources is considering a D-plant site near Davenport because Pacific Gas and Electric Company wants to build an atomic reactor at Davenport to generate electricity. The A-plant's heat would be used for the D-plant.

Enough water would be produced to supply a city larger

than the City of Santa Cruz, between 20,000 and 50,000 acre-feet per year. An acre-foot is one acre of water one foot deep.

Studies may show that several future damsites would be unnecessary if the D-plant supplied water. However, consulting engineer Magnus Bennedsen estimates one dam at Baldwin Creek would be needed to hold the desalted water.

Water lines and a method of mixing regular water with the purified water also would be required.

State water experts expected to speak Tuesday night are Herbert W. Greydanus, engineer in charge of the Division of Resources Development; Dr. Don Brice, staff chemical engineer and desalting specialist; and Roger Lindholm, desalting project engineer.

The study session will be held in supervisors' chambers in the courthouse, Ocean and Water Streets.



The plan for Villa de Branciforte was the beginning of Santa Cruz. From