

*Energy Crisis*

# County Fights Rationing

BY WALLACE WOOD  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Santa Cruz County is ready to fight gas rationing. Even if Gov. Ronald Reagan orders it, gas stations won't go on odd - even gas days.

That 's the word from County Government Energy Chief Gene Delucchi today.

The spirit of fight goes right on through to gas station operators, and to some motorists ready to do battle at the pumps.

"When it's law, we'll do it!" snapped Don Eddimon of Aptos Shell Service.

"More government control just screws it up worse," added George Taylor of Taylor Shell in Scotts Valley. "I don't care what they say; I'm selling gas to whoever comes in as long as I have it. I'm fed up."

So are county supervisors, who declared Tuesday there is a gas emergency in Santa Cruz County.

As soon as an emergency is declared, Gov. Reagan has special powers to order rationing or other action. Five other counties declared emergencies and were put on the odd - even gas system tried in Oregon and other states. Cars with an even number on the last number of their license plates will get gas on even -

numbered days, and those with an odd number last will get gas on odd - numbered days. Cars with personalized license plates are considered "odd."

The five counties are Los Angeles, Orange, Alameda, Modoc, and Solano. It's supposed to start Friday.

But the county government doesn't want gas rationing. In a telegram to Herbert Temple of the State Office of Emergency Services, the county said, in effect:

—Don't put gas rationing on Santa Cruz County.

—Get more gas allocated for the county and the state instead.

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### Weather

MONTEREY BAY AREA — Increasing clouds tonight and Thursday with chance of rain Thursday. Little temperature change. Highs Thursday in the upper 50s to mid 60s. Lows tonight in the 40s. Southerly winds tonight increasing Thursday. Temperatures for the Santa Cruz area for the 24 - hour period ending at 8 a.m. this morning: High 59, Low 41.

# County Fights Rationing; Battle At Pumps Goes On

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—Promote better public transportation.

For one thing, if there is gas rationing, the state wants the county to set up "control centers" to "monitor" gas stations and make them follow the odd-even plan.

Delucchi said this would mean hiring a staff of ten people, and the county doesn't have the money.

Besides, supervisors said, it doesn't work. Rationing is "ineffective, expensive to administer, and beyond the financial capabilities of this county," they told the state office. "It should not be implemented in Santa Cruz County."

There is a gas emergency, and Delucchi said if supervisors didn't declare an emergency, the county wouldn't be eligible for a possible 3 per cent extra gas allotment.

Long lines stretched around every gas station open the past few days, with police helping to keep traffic clear and tempers down.

Nevertheless, a fight broke out between a motorist and a customer at a Standard Station in Santa Cruz Tuesday, police reported. No arrests were made.

"When I came to work at 6:30 this morning, the line stretched around half a block," said Henry Bond of Bond's Chevron on Mission Street.

"At least six people told me they had spent the night waiting in front of the station. Do you think I'm going to tell them they can't have gas?" Bond asked.

Not everyone is upset. In Aptos Monday, motorists waiting for gas were said to be playing Frisbee, reading newspapers, or buying ice cream from a bicycle wagon.

While most stations pump gas at a furious rate in the mornings, and run out of their own voluntarily - set daily limit in a few hours, some other stations are determined to serve motorists. Terrible Herbst in Aptos is reported using its gas allocations from other locations to stay open there when other stations are closed.

Taylor, of Scotts Valley Shell, made no bones about it. "Government doesn't know anything about the gas business. This didn't work in Oregon or New York, but they want to try it here.

"We've been doing fine for 50 years, keeping prices down and getting the gas. Now the government steps in and we have rationing and panic. I think they want to get control of the people, and I'm not going to play the game."

A more practical approach came from Aptos Shell mechanic Larry Taylor: "Tell people to get their cars tuned up. If the car is running bad, it can waste one - fourth of their gas."



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## Measure House

The provision, while "immediately popular," would lead to further shortages "which would require without question, rationing all over the country."

## Race For Congress Changes

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coe, a candidate in the 1972 primary election, took his hat out of the ring after having announced seven months ago he would be in the current race.

The newcomer is Dominic J. (Jeff) Mauro, an Empire Grade resident and standard bearer of the American Independent Par-