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 Eddlmon 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 wwere 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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# Santa Cruz Sentinel

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#### Weather

MONTEREY BAY AREA — Increasing clouds tonight and Thursday,
day 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 trany sportation.

For one thing, if there is gas 0 et rationing, the state wants the county to set up "control cene ters" to "monitor" gas stations ot and make them follow the odd even plan.

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

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

Measure House

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

### Race For Congress Changes

(Continued From Page 1)

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. resident and standard bearer of and I'm not going to play the the American Independent Par- game."

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

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 newspaers, or buying ice cream

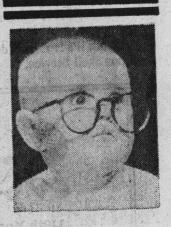
from a bicycle wagon.

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

"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 (Jeff) Mauro, an Empire Grade want to get control of the people,

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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