

San Lorenzo River Flood Control Job Contract Seen Soon By Gubser

Congressman Charles S. Gubser and Col. John A. Graf, army engineers, told city and county officials yesterday that they hope for a construction contract for the San Lorenzo flood control project before the end of the fiscal year.

Gubser said "In addition, I hope to get an appropriation of \$1,600,000 for the succeeding fiscal year of 1957-58."

Gubser and Col. Graf met with Mayor Paul Forgey, City Manager Bob Klein, Supervisor Frank Clement from the San Lorenzo district, Mrs. Alice Earl Wilder of the San Lorenzo Valley Chamber of Commerce, and A. C. Shurtz, secretary of Paradise Park Masonic club, to discuss the combined city-county problems in regard to flood control and how further flooding might be avoided.

The engineers beach erosion board in Washington has the Santa Cruz project on its agenda for this month, city officials were told.

Gubser said "I think Santa Cruz can expect favorable action from the board of engineers."

Gubser's original request to the appropriation board was for \$490,300, but by the passage of the Auchincloss bill during the last

congress, there is a possibility of an increase in federal financial participation.

Clearance of debris from the San Lorenzo river is a necessity "both for the city's morale, and the city's growth," Klein said.

The congressman for the 10th district promised to petition the federal civil defense office to authorize funds for the clearance of streams in the county.

Supervisor Clements said the amount of debris in the upper San Lorenzo valley would increase the danger of flooding and erosion when the winter rains began.

Gubser replied there are two federal bills under which the county could ask aid.

Col. Graf told county officials that similar projects had met with difficulties in obtaining proper right of way and access permits, since the engineers will conduct channel clearing operations only along a continuous given stretch of the river. Col. Graf also stressed the need for local cooperation and agreements to maintain the channel of the river once it is cleared by the army engineers.

The board of supervisors is expected to take early action to request a survey from the engineers.

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