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## Sanitation Sleuths Close In On Soquel Creek Pollution

Painstaking sleuthing by the Capitola Sanitation District to track down sources of pollution in Soquel Creek are beginning to pay off.

Director Ryder Ray told fellow board members Thursday night that the highest pollution count taken in recent testing had been 515 coliform bacteria per 100 milliliters of water. Previous single-sample counts had run as high as 158,000.

Ray called the lowered counts "encouraging" and said, "It looks like we're getting close to it."

The district has conducted a fine-tooth search of sewer lines and septic tanks in the creek vicinity to determine which may have been seeping into the creek.

Thus far, he pointed out, the district has succeeded in switching sewer connections of eight suspect residences, corrected five failing septic tanks and repaired a broken sewer main.

He asked county representatives at the meeting for further dye testing of three suspect sewer systems, and the county men agreed to perform the tests.

In other action, Director John Lappin asked why design work should not proceed immediately for the expansion of the East Cliff disposal plant. He noted that both recommendations by the county public works department for the plant's future had called for its expansion although they differed in the means of ultimate disposal of the treated effluent.

Lappin thought the expansion work should proceed now, while the decision on whether to build a longer East Cliff outfall line or connect the plant to the Santa Cruz system waits until a later date.

Proposed expansion of the plant would double its output capacity from four million to eight million gallons a day.

The expansion would be financed through funds the district has been accumulating at the rate of \$50,000 per year. As of July 1, the kitty will amount to \$400,000.

In addition, the district has applied for a 30 per cent federal grant, and Public Works Director Don Porath pointed out there is a good chance it will come through. He noted the suddenly ecology-conscious federal government has upped its sewage improvement funds in California from \$15 million last year to \$62 million in the current fiscal year.

The East Cliff expansion project goes before the state Water Resources Control Board today in San Luis Obispo, along with the Santa Cruz City sewage plant outfall line proposal.

The priorities placed on either the East Cliff plant or the San-

ta Cruz plant may determine which of the two projects gets federal funds to handle sewage flows from Live Oak and Capitola in the future, and may have a bearing on the Live Oak annexation-incorporation battle.

East Cliff has two grant requests in for an outfall. One is for \$681,790, and the other for \$282,270. Santa Cruz is asking \$840,000 to replace and relocate its outfall and provide enough capacity to handle additional sewage flows such as the East Cliff district's.

If the East Cliff plant's outfall proposal is approved, and the plant is expanded, it should serve the needs of the area through 1990, Assistant Public Works Director Terry Holzworth observed.

If approval of the East Cliff project is obtained from the state board, the East Cliff and Capitola Sanitation District boards, design work could start in August, Holzworth said.

If that happens, construction could be underway by the summer of 1971.