

Pajaronian
12-2-70

MRS. HESTER
224 CHURCH ST.
SAN CRUZ, CALIF.

Growing crisis in the environment

In our air

Recommendations to further limit the amount of pollution the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. spew into the atmosphere from its Moss Landing plant were endorsed Tuesday.

But the recommendations endorsed by the citizens' advisory committee to the Santa Cruz-Monterey Counties Air Pollution Control District would impose much tougher limits on the PG&E plant than those presently in effect.

And the committee let it be known that it wants a review of the situation in the middle of next year to see if things can't be made even tighter.

The committee, meeting in Salinas, approved and sent to district directors a rule which would limit to 150 parts per million the amount of nitrogen oxide the PG&E plant may let into the atmosphere from its two big Moss Landing stacks.

The present limit is 500 parts per million but the plant is actually operating

now with an average of between 125 and 150 parts per million of the nitrogen oxide.

Previously the citizens' committee had sent to district directors—who are county supervisors from each county—a recommendation that PG&E be limited to 100 parts per million beginning July 1, 1972. District directors, after hearing lawyers and engineers for the giant utility firm, decided the 100 parts per million figure was too stringent and asked the citizens committee to come up with a new recommendation.

Despite the fact that the new recommendation sets the 150 part per million figure committee members made it clear that they want PG&E to get down to 100 parts per million—or whatever minimum figure is possible—before too long. The committee asked district directors to hold a public hearing next July to

reconsider the 100 part per million limitation.

Robert Brattain, head of the committee's technical advisory group, predicted that new advances in technology would make the 100 part per million figure feasible soon if it is not already possible.

In another action the citizens' group approved and sent to district directors a regulation aimed at ending backyard burning. This proposal, which is sure to draw criticism, is similar to regulations in other areas and won't be approved here without a public hearing.

Chairman Charles Kramer stepped down as head of the citizens' committee yesterday and said he thought it was time for new blood to take over the group.

Gordon Sinclair, managing editor of the Santa Cruz Sentinel, was elected as the new chairman. Earl Moser was elected vice chairman.

-0-

In the sea

Sewage pollution is making some beaches on the Monterey Bay rim unsafe for swimming and, in certain instances, for clamming.

That was the news contained in a lengthy report made Tuesday to supervisors of both Monterey and Santa Cruz counties.

The report contained the results of a survey made between April, 1969, and last May. Sixteen organizations under the guidance of the Monterey County and Santa Cruz County Health Departments took part in the survey.

The surveys were designed to measure contamination in shore waters of Monterey Bay, especially near sewer outflows.

In a sampling made last February (during the Pismo clamming season), the report found "shell fish coliform standards were exceeded at Palm Beach, Seacliff Beach and substantially at

Elkhorn slough. It added that the elevated coliform densities could be attributed to storm water runoff in streams and slough. (Coliform organisms that come from man and animals do not cause disease, but serve as indicators of the presence of contamination).

Yesterday, Walter Wong, chief Monterey County sanitarian, warned supervisors that if coliform counts reach the same levels as in the past, it could become likely that Santa Cruz beaches might be posted against bathing. He said beaches on the southern rim of the bay already face the likelihood of being posted against swimming and surfing.

In addition, Palm and adjacent beaches may be banned for the taking of shellfish.

The report said that many sewer treatment plants discharging into Monterey or Carmel Bay are

"approaching their design capacities and periodically exceeding their design capacities."

Among the recommendations were:

—That bacteriological and shellfish pesticide surveillance programs be made permanent.

—That an investigation be made to find the sources of fecal coliform organisms in tributaries of Monterey Bay.

—That water pollution control laws be strictly enforced.

Meanwhile, a meeting will be held in Watsonville Dec 9 (7:30 p.m. city hall) to discuss the report in detail. Then, representatives of the various agencies involved in the study will meet with Sen. Donald Grunsky and Assemblymen Frank Murphy Jr. and Bob Wood to see if the recommendations in the report can be implemented.

Supervisors are expected to discuss the report again at their Jan. 5 meeting.

-0-

On our streams

The Pajaro River flood control project, proposed for construction in 1973 by the army corps of engineers, may be held up until a complete study can be made on the environmental impact of the proposed channel and levee system.

At their board meeting yesterday Santa Cruz County supervisors considered the corps' initial environmental statement on the \$15 million project and decided they want a complete study made now on the ecological and esthetic aspects of the system made before the engineering plans are approved.

(Under a new federal law the environmental statement when approved becomes the basis for incorporation of recreational development, as a part of

threat in the Pajaro Valley by channelizing the river, Salsipuedes Creek and a portion of Corralitos Creek has come under fire from a number of quarters, including the Pajaro Valley Joint Water Study Committee, and Pajaro Valley sportsmen.

In a written comment to the board of supervisors yesterday, the water study committee stated that the corps's environmental statement "clearly shows the proposed project does not and will not meet the expressed and obvious needs of the people of the Pajaro Valley...It is a defensive presentation rather than a constructive, objective compliance with the National Environmental Act."

The committee called for a plan which will protect the environment of the

certainly appears the environmental approach is the wise one. It is our future approach."

Lammi added, "If we started the project from scratch this is what we would do. We could still do this, if you're willing to accept the risk of a 100-year flood."

(The corps of engineers was called in to design a flood control project after the flood of 1955-56 which threatened the city of Watsonville and flooded other areas of the Pajaro Valley. The flood was the result of the worst storm in 100 years.)

Lammi said that no policy decision has been made on who pays the additional costs if the "bare bones" channel project is revised. "If there is good reason, we can go beyond 3 per cent (\$450,000) of the

proposed for construction in 1973 by the army corps of engineers, may be held up until a complete study can be made on the environmental impact of the proposed channel and levee system.

At their board meeting yesterday Santa Cruz County supervisors considered the corps' initial environmental statement on the \$15 million project and decided they want a complete study made now on the ecological and esthetic aspects of the system made before the engineering plans are approved.

(Under a new federal law the environmental statement when approved becomes the basis for incorporation of recreational development, as a part of the federally financed project.)

The board voted to ask the other two government agencies participating in the project, the city of Watsonville and the county of Monterey, to join them in requesting the corps to make the study.

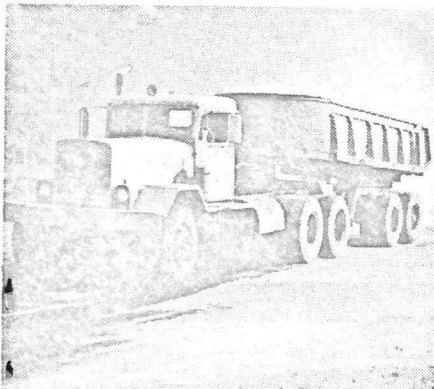
The decision came following evaluation of the corps' environmental statement and a discussion with the project's engineer, Carl Besse and Philip Lammi, chief of environmental planning research for the project.

Besse said that the plan essentially is a channel project but that there is "latitude to consider rather broad changes."

"We will be considering all requests of the government officials and interested groups in developing plans and will try to evaluate them carefully and reasonably cost-wise," Besse said. "But this is a big factor," he added.

The project to eliminate the flood

On the inside



Ideal Co. cement truck leaves plant near San Juan Bautista

nelizing the river, Salsipuedes Creek and a portion of Corralitos Creek has come under fire from a number of quarters, including the Pajaro Valley Joint Water Study Committee, and Pajaro Valley sportsmen.

In a written comment to the board of supervisors yesterday, the water study committee stated that the corps's environmental statement "clearly shows the proposed project does not and will not meet the expressed and obvious needs of the people of the Pajaro Valley...It is a defensive presentation rather than a constructive, objective compliance with the National Environmental Act."

The committee called for a plan which will preserve the environment of the Pajaro Valley, provide the area with flood control protection and at the same time provide an adequate basis for development of water conservation, recreation and control of water pollution. (There are no large reservoirs or dams planned in the project.)

Supervisor Henry Mello echoed these sentiments in leading the board on the new environmental study request.

"I'd be willing to wait a year and a half on the project to do something about the environment...we're concerned about this and think it is worthwhile," Mello said.

Lammi, the army's environmental planner, agreed with Mello, saying, "It

approach is the wise one. It is our future approach."

Lammi added, "If we started the project from scratch this is what we would do. We could still do this, if you're willing to accept the risk of a 100-year flood."

(The corps of engineers was called in to design a flood control project after the flood of 1955-56 which threatened the city of Watsonville and flooded other areas of the Pajaro Valley. The flood was the result of the worst storm in 100 years.)

Lammi said that no policy decision has been made on who pays the additional costs if the "bare bones" channel project is revised. "If there is good reason, we can go beyond 3 per cent (\$450,000) of the total project cost," set aside for landscaping and beautification of the system, he said.

"Higher than that, it would probably be a 50-50 cost sharing basis," he said, but added that he was not sure whether reservoirs could be included in this.

"There are combinations of ways of funding the entire package," said Mello.

The county's water consultant Ed Hanna was directed by the board to draw up a resolution for the board's approval which would request the study to be made.

"We want to know about all factors that affect the ecology of the Pajaro River," Mello said.

\$140 million cutback in Medi-Cal ordered

SACRAMENTO (UPI) —Gov. Ronald Reagan today announced a \$140 million reduction in the Medi-Cal program in an effort to resolve a state fiscal crisis.

"It is clearly inequitable and unfair to expect our hardworking taxpayers to bear the brunt of additional costs brought on by Medi-Cal excesses," Reagan said in a prepared statement he read to newsmen summoned to his office.

The Republican governor, in his second major cost-cutting action of the week, said he was "unalterably opposed" to increasing taxes to solve the state's financial dilemma.

Reagan did not specify what would be cut from the huge program which provides health care for the poor. But Dr. Earl

effect of inflation ... The truth is the taxpayers owe most of them a debt of gratitude. Now we must ask them to again pull in their belts."

Reagan said the cutbacks would remain in effect until the program can begin living within its budget. He said legislative proposals for "complete overhaul and reform" will be offered during the 1971 session.

As an illustration of the problem, Reagan said that in 1966 one out of every 15 Californians was on welfare and eligible for Medi-Cal. Today, he said, one out of every nine persons is eligible.

Reagan on Monday—his first full day back in the capitol since the Nov. 3 election—

a.m. today and fell for about six minutes, giving Main St. a coating of white ice which quickly melted.

On Freedom Blvd. near Green Valley Road a phone booth was blown over during the night, and a shed collapsed in an alley off Union St. in Watsonville.

Despite the storm, the Santa Cruz County road maintenance department reported few emergency calls.

Weather

Yesterday's highs:

Bakersfield	65
Fresno	61
Sacramento	59
WATSONVILLE	57
Today's low 44, today noon 51	

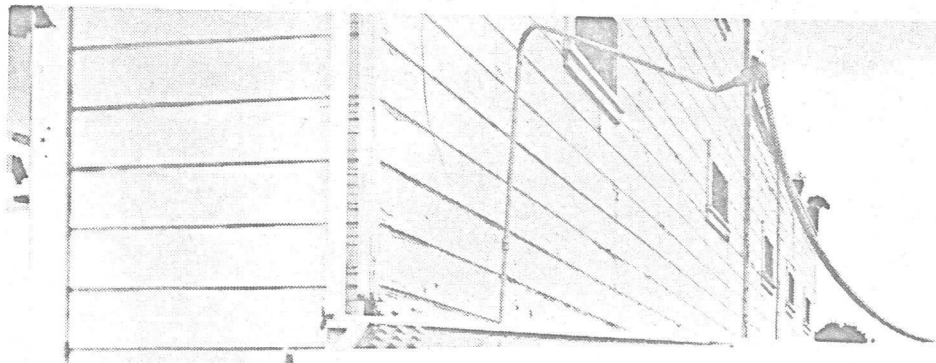
FORECAST: Monterey Bay area — Showers today with chance of thundershowers; cloudy tonight and Thursday with chance of showers tonight; low tonight in 40s; small craft warnings today for south winds 15-30 mph with winds dropping to 5-15 mph by tonight.

Northern California — Decreasing showers or thunderstorms today; cloudy tonight and Thursday except showers in extreme north and over mountains; travel warnings today for heavy snow in mountains above 4,000 feet in north and 5,500 feet in south; little temperature change; decreasing winds.

Sun sets Wednesday at 4:51 p.m.; rises Thursday at 7:08 a.m.

Moonset Wednesday 8:49 p.m.; moonrise Thursday 11:27 a.m.

Tides: Wednesday low 7:26 p.m. -1.1 ft.; Thursday high 2:38 a.m. 4.2 ft., low 7:14 a.m. 3.4 ft., high 12:38 p.m. 5.0 ft.



lawyer, for the job in the benefit Brown would not seek it.

"I'm sure he hoped I would not be a candidate," Brown said in praising Tunney for living up to what Brown indicated had been a long-time commitment.

"John Tunney has always indicated he would support me," Brown told newsmen after making his formal announcement.

The 50-year old three-term congressman said he had considered running for the State Senate seat, being vacated by George Danielson, who won the House seat given up by Brown to run for the Senate.

"But I have decided that the best way I can serve my party, my state and our nation is not to personally seek elective office at this time," Brown said, "but to do everything I can to ensure strong Democratic victory across the board in 1972."

Brown, considered one of the most liberal members of Congress, said one reason he felt he would be a "unifying force" was that he could "bring back into the party those who have drifted away from it...the working men as well as the young and the disadvantaged." "I intend to be a unifying force, not a disruptive one," he said. "I intend to remain scrupulously neutral in the presidential primary race, and in the races for the reapportioned legislative and congressional seats as well."

Brown said he had discussed his candidacy with other Democratic leaders as well as with Tunney. He said they "indicated satisfaction with my candidacy" and promised their "full support" if he were elected to the party post. Such party leaders, he said, included Sen. Alan Cranston, Jesse Unruh and Edmund G. Brown Jr., the newly elected secretary of state.

The next party chairman is to be elected at the Democratic state convention to be held in January in Sacramento.

Utility workers repair dead on Cathedral Drive near Apt. tree fell across lines.

State to close San Luis pris

SACRAMENTO (UPI) Department of Corrections to that the 1,200-inmate minimum at the San Luis Obispo Me close by next spring.

The unit is being closed "drop in the population of st department statement said. process will begin immedia