

water pollution

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Why County's Pollution Control District Proposal Fell Flat

By WALLACE WOOD
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Rejection of a county program for stream cleanup and water pollution control seems to be based on two viewpoints from cities and water agencies:

Lack of support for a county-wide "zone" to clean up the county's watercourses and start a vigorous anti-pollution program froze the idea in its tracks Tuesday.

Ed Hanna, county water projects coordinator, said the cities of Santa Cruz Capitola, Watsonville and Scotts Valley and the San Lorenzo Valley County Water District have rejected requests to include their areas in the zone for tax purposes. Only Soquel Creek County Water District has agreed.

The zone would levy a three-percent tax the first year to support a \$90,000 budget for two full-time officials and some cleanup work.

Rather than throw the idea out, supervisors continued a public hearing on the zone and called for more extensive publicity and better explanations of the zone's purpose.

Officials from three of the cities agreed with this view. They said city officials didn't understand that pollution control was part of the flood control project, and that their respective city councils might reconsider if given better arguments in favor of joining the county zone.

But Friend Stone, Scotts Valley city administrator, and Ken Springer of the San Lorenzo Valley County Water District said they knew that the county was talking about and consider it a likely waste of time and money.

Stone said the City of Scotts Valley has its own plans for sewage treatment, and that it can do the job as well or better than the county.

"We don't need more of their taxes for them to do a job we are already planning to do," Stone said. "Those county guys down there keep wanting to add new agencies and new people even though the county area is shrinking and the city boundaries are growing all over the county."

Stone said it is "up to the

county to prove it can offer a service to us," and remarked the county has done very little in the past for his city, despite the taxes it takes out of the area.

Springer had similar comments. He also refuted Hanna's statements that water board members believe San Lorenzo Valley has no great pollution problem. "We're well aware there is pollution and that our waters don't meet health standards without treatment," Springer declared.

But Springer saw no need "for creating another bureau, another agency to take care of these problems." He said the least expensive way would be for the county to put more money into the county health department and have them step up their enforcement program against pollution sources.

"The county health department is already obligated for most of the things this is proposing," Springer said, "such as checking septic tanks, raw sewage, river waters, and so forth."

Springer said he was disappointed when Hanna told the water board no county agency checks the streams to see they are kept clear of debris, log jams, and the like. "Why can't public works do that?" Springer asked. "This idea of another agency cannot help but be a more costly way to handle the problem."

Springer did admit that something must eventually be done to stop a growing rate of water pollution in the valley, and said there is no such program in the active planning stage now. Felton is working on a sanitation district, and we would like to cooperate with them. We might build local treatment plants or something of that sort."

The remainder of city officials left the door open to any county overtures. Capitola City Manager Ryder Ray said the plan was presented to his council "as a flood control problem, not a pollution problem."

He said an effective pollution

control program would be valuable to Capitola, whose popular swimming lagoon has been closed because of pollution in Soquel Creek.

Dave Koester, Santa Cruz City Manager, echoed Ray in saying the plan was not well presented from the anti-pollution viewpoint. "It's not open and shut, but we do have a flood control district now, with a tax of five cents. It's a communication thing, and the county should get together with the cities and explain this."

Koester added, however, that the county's district has some "rather broad powers," such as the right to levy a tax of up to 25 cents, if necessary. "The cities also are not on the governing board, so you can see why we would be reluctant," he noted.

Tom Rowan, Watsonville city manager, said essentially the same thing. He also said the door is still open. Watsonville is now in the Pajaro Valley Storm Maintenance District which has a 21-cent tax.

Poetry Readings Tonight



Robert Bly

Robert Bly and Robert Mezey will read from their works tonight at 8 in the Stevenson College dining commons at UCSC.

The public is invited.

Many of the poems to be featured deal with recent American history.

Bly is author of "Silence in the Snowy Fields," published by Wesleyan University as part of its poetry series, his first book, and "The Light Around the Body," his second volume. The latter won the National Book Award for poetry in 1968.

His poems have appeared in "Poetry," "The Nation," "The Paris Review," and "Hudson Review" magazines. He also is the author of the literary magazine "The Sixties."

He is co-founder of American Writers Against the War in Vietnam and has organized "anti-war read-ins" at colleges and universities.

Mezey is author of a book

Department Store Plans Afoot In SV

Attempts to attract a small department store to the Kings Village shopping center in Scotts Valley were revealed Wednesday night to SV Planning commissioners by George Ow, shopping center developer, during a public hearing on his request for a zoning change from A-2½ to C-3-D.

Ow told the commissioners: "In our next development phase we would like to bring a department store to the center. It takes from two to two-and-a-half years to negotiate such a transaction. When you talk to these people they ask if you have commercial zoning. If you have not, that stops the negotiations. If the city wants a department store, I need the commercial zoning."

The re-zoning was approved unanimously after SV City Manager Friend Stone and SV Planner Jun Lee backed it with