

SLV Group Questions Zayante Dam Project

Save the San Lorenzo Association recently challenged the Santa Cruz City Water Department to state publicly the figures it is using to support the Zayante Dam project.

"City Water Director Morris Allen has publicly repudiated the 100 gallon per day per person figure given us by his own office," Mary Barnett, spokesperson, said. "Very well, what usage figure is he projecting to support this costly, hazardous and environmentally damaging project?"

Barnett said the 100 gpd figure was given to both her and Mary Hammer, a Save the River leader, during the past month by Assistant City Water Director John McGuire, who said it came from Allen himself and included commercial and industrial use.

"We thought the figure was low, but we had to use the one they gave us," Barnett said. "All we are trying to do is figure out why the city has to build a 24,500 acre-foot reservoir on an earthquake fault and flood six miles of steelhead habitat."

Save the San Lorenzo River Association has asked the City Council to stop planning Zayante Dam because ultimate need of the Santa Cruz Water District at the 100 gpd figure is 8515 acre feet per year and firm annual yield is 14,050 according to the district itself.

Barnett said Save the River members searched city documents in vain to find clearcut justification for the Zayante project, estimated to cost \$30,000,000.

"We've poured over the water department's 'Water Supply Estimates, August 1979'," she said. "There are a lot of pretty charts with all these lines heading for the sky. But what they based on?"

She declared the city document does not specify the projected level of usage per unit, either in gallons per day or in acre feet per year, or the level of industrial use and loss.

"Furthermore, the growth rate is projected at 2.4 per cent per year, which since Measure O and Measure J is illegal," she charged. "The fact that both Santa Cruz and Live Oak have a fairly early buildout under present planning and zoning is conveniently ignored."

At the more realistic usage figure of 140 gallons per day

"If we use the city figure, the deficit after buildout would be only 1000 acre feet a year. The Tait Street subsurface collector project, recommended by the water department itself, would provide an average yield of 3000 acre feet a year and a safe dry year yield of 1000 acre feet at a minute fraction of the cost of Zayante."

She noted the water department has included funds in



The shadow of a high powered jet is reflected in the slowly flowing waters of the San Lorenzo river. The Save the San Lorenzo River Association is questioning the Zayante Dam project.

per person, plus allowance for industrial used at 11 per cent and line losses at eight percent, the district has enough water for its ultimate population under present zoning, according to Barnett. She noted the 140 gallon per day figure was that given for 1976 by consultants Bronw and Caldwell in its 201 Wastewater Study for the Santa Cruz Water District.

"At 140 gpd, if population is limited to present buildout of 77, 410, the water district needs approximately 15,000 acre feet for its ultimate needs," Barnett said. "The city's own figures show a firm annual yield from all sources, based on the driest year on record, of 14,050, although the county says the firm annual yield of the district is 15,800.

its 1980-81 budget for design of the Tait Street project.

The city of Santa Cruz has applied to the State Division of Water Rights for rights to divert a total of 24,500 acre feet of water a year from Zayante Creek, a tributary of the San Lorenzo River. The state agency has extended the deadline for submission of an environmental impact report on the project to December 1980.

The diversion has been protested by the county of Santa Cruz and the State Department of Fish and Game as well as by the Save the San Lorenzo River Association.

Although no application to that effect has been submitted to the state, the city plans to divert water from the San Lorenzo River for offstream storage in Zayante Reservoir. ■

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