

water crisis

# SC Water Chief Warns Valley

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Sentinel Staff Writer

Thousands of San Lorenzo Valley residents could have their water supply from the Loch Lomond Reservoir sharply curtailed or cut off entirely if the current drought creates an emergency situation for the City of Santa Cruz.

Morris Allen, Santa Cruz water director, told the city water commission today that the reservoir is about only about two-thirds full and that the city watershed now needs "about 20 inches of rain" just for the

trees and plants, and that there will be little runoff to the reservoir from a storm even of this magnitude.

"There is no cause for real alarm," Allen said, "and I have no intention of going to the city council with a request to curtail sales to the valley. But if an emergency does develop, I would have to go to the city council with the question. Under the terms of the contract with the SLV County Water District we can in an emergency stop selling them water if the council so decides."

Allen noted the SLV district

has already drawn 269 acre feet of water from the reservoir so far this fiscal year. He said that in December the district drew 6 million gallons and that in November it drew 128 million gallons, and he said, "This is very unusual for them."

The district is allowed 500 acre feet per fiscal year through an agreement with the city.

Allen noted, ironically, that if the new Felton water diversion station had been operable in November there might not now be a concern about a shortage in the reservoir. The irony is that delays in construction of the rubber inflatable dam and pump station were caused by opposition of many SLV conservationists to the project.

In November the city might have used the station to draw substantial water supplies from the river, Allen said, for at that time the river flow was 31 feet per second. Now the drought has cut the flow to 20 feet per second.

The project now requires a heavy river flow for its completion, Allen said. This is because the controls for the automatic inflation and deflation of the dam cannot be set until the flow is strong enough to trigger the actions.

Generally speaking, use of the reservoir is on a three year cycle, with only about a third taken out of it so that in dry years such as this one there will

# High Court Upholds GOP Plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a case which could have major impact on the battle for the 1976 Republican presidential nomination, the Supreme Court today affirmed the constitutionality of California's winner-take-all primary for GOP candidates.

The court, without explain-

three-judge federal court upholding the primary and leaving it in effect for selection of the state's 167 delegates to next year's GOP convention.

California Democrats have abandoned the winner-take-all system in favor of a plan of election by congressional districts and have

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