

New water well is a gusher

A new water well in Soquel has been test-pumped at the astounding rate of 1,800 gallons per minute, making it one of the largest water producers in Santa Cruz County.

Soquel Creek Water District general manager Bob Johnson said the well will probably be completed and nor-

mally pumped at approximately 1,000 gallons a minute, making it one of the most productive wells in the Midcounty.

Water from the new well on Rosedale Avenue in Soquel, next to the water district offices, has been flowing into the gutters on Soquel Drive and into

the storm drains for several days, Johnson said, while drilling debris and sediment is flushed out of the well.

Water samples are still being analyzed to determine if the district needs to construct a \$250,000 iron and manganese removal plant next to the well. The plants have been built at other well sites to remove the microscopic particles that frequently stain plumbing fixtures and laundry, but do not have any negative human health effects.

The Rosedale Avenue well, Johnson said, taps a previously unused water formation that provides much "cleaner" water and it is possible that the filtration plant won't be required in this case.

Drilling crews started work yesterday and this morning on drilling two other production wells for the water district — one on Bonita Drive in Rio del Mar and the second on Sells Drive in

La Selva Beach.

Test holes were previously drilled at both locations by Maggiora Bros. of Watsonville, and the contractor is now starting to drill the large diameter production wells.

The contractor is behind schedule, however, and is now in the penalty phase of his contract with the water district that calls for a payment of \$100 to the district for each additional day it takes to complete the wells.

In other business Monday night, water directors approved a change in policy, allowing developers to pay storage and transmission fees in stages as a new housing project is built, rather than one lump sum at the time a project is approved.

The new policy is in response to a request by White Rabbit Associates for staggered fee payments for Phase II of their Willowbrook Village townhouse development west of Cabrillo College.