

# Supervisors Declare Big Basin Emergency

County supervisors today declared a state of emergency in the Boulder Creek Country Club residential area, giving the

public health officer the authority to mandate a water rationing program.

Basically, the rationing

would allow 85 gallons per day (gpd) per household with possible allowances of more water for larger families or persons with hardships.

Leading into the board action, a meeting of over 100 residents of the area, served by the Big Basin Water Company, was held Monday night at which the homeowners were asked to voluntarily hold the line at 85 gpd until Aug. 9 when the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) would meet on the water emergency. County action will be superceded by the PUC.

The water company announced last Thursday that its supply was nearly gone, but by Monday announced that it could provide 40,177 gallons a day to its 340 customers.

Supervisor Ed Borovatz told residents that a voluntary program "left too much room for abuse" and said that concerns of fire impelled him to ask the county board to take jurisdiction and make the rationing program mandatory until the PUC meets.

A PUC rationing program would be mandatory, Big Basin Water Company Owner Kermit McGranahan said, pointing out that until the PUC meets, the company management can request only voluntary compliance.

He also said that the 85 gpd restriction would maintain the water flow "presently," and Borovatz also pointed out there was no guarantee that the water sources (three springs and two wells) would not continue to deteriorate.

Under Borovatz' proposal, restrictors would be placed into the water lines that would shut off flow after the allocation mark had been reached.

McGranahan said his company was attempting to contract with other water agencies — San Lorenzo Valley, Soquel Creek and the City of Santa Cruz — but that no contracts had been signed.

Following the meeting, SLV Water Board Chairman George

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