

# County Backs City's Try For More River Water, If..

By TOM HONIG  
Sentinel Staff Writer

The City of Santa Cruz may dip its cup twice as deeply into the San Lorenzo River to help restore its dwindling water supply, at least as far as the county board of supervisors is concerned.

City officials will appear before the State Water Resources Control Board next Tuesday in an attempt to gain approval to pump more water out of the river and into its reservoirs than is currently allowed (see Page 10).

The county board today voted 5-0 to support the city in its attempt, although supervisors asked the city to meet several conditions before declaring their final approval.

Currently, the city may not pump any water from San Lorenzo River at its water diversion dam in Felton unless the stream flow is at least 20 cubic feet per second. During this winter's dry months, the flow has rarely reached that level, so the city has not been able to take any of the water.

With its vote today, the county board backed the city's plan.

Also, in the words of Supervisor Gary Patton, who advanced the motion to support the city's plan, the city must "cooperate with the county program" of conserving water which the board also adopted today (see story above).

SEE BACK PAGE

## County Backs The City, If..

FROM PAGE 1

Finally, the city should have to pay back the extra water it takes, the board said. County Watershed Manager Ron Johansen said that the river's general health would be improved in future, wetter years if the city returned the extra water, and added that the extra flow would help fish and wildlife.

Supervisor Phil Baldwin pulled an old political battle off the shelf when he amended Patton's motion to include a request to Santa Cruz that it reconsider its policy of charging its water users who live outside the city limits double what it charges city residents. The amendment, along with the main motion, passed on a 5-0 vote.