

Water Supply  
1970-79

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# Water report contained 'slight' miscalculation

Directors of the Soquel Creek County Water District were happy to learn that there was a slight clerical error in the Charles S. McCandless and Company district master plan report Monday.

In adding up the total cost of water main reinforcements, somebody had moved a decimal point over just one place. The result was that the cost was reported to be \$4 million instead of \$400,000.

Correction of this error cut \$3.6 million off the cost of bringing district facilities up to standard. The present cost estimate is \$2,528,700 by 1975 and another \$1,511,200 by 1980.

That brought the burden on the district "within reason," the directors decided with a sigh of relief.

The board members spent from two to three hours Monday night going over the report carefully with George Cook, a McCandless

engineer. Following the review, they accepted the report — with corrections.

"Next we'll start studies and meetings to find ways to implement the report," Robert Johnson, district executive director, said.

"This is a directional report. It tells the general areas in which we need reservoirs, but it doesn't pinpoint them."

The main problem now facing the district directors is to find sources of funds to make the needed improvements to the system.

The report found that Soquel Creek Water District facilities fail to meet the "generally accepted standards of the water-works industry."

Spending \$100,000 a year to replace undersized mains is recommended.

The directors told Johnson to prepare recommendations for

updating charges for storage and transmission costs.

The district's present method of obtaining funds for expansion is to make a lump-sum "storage and transmission" charge to each water-user at the time of connection.

The individual home-owner now pays \$172 at the time of connection. Charges are different for trailer courts and other commercial users.

"We will have to review these to make sure that the homeowner is not subsidizing others," Johnson said. "We might investigate the possibility of using other means of raising money entirely. Or there might be a compromise."

The district directors are: Ken Izant, board chairman; Larry Bargetto, Eddy Peretto, Jim McLachlan, and Casey Jones.

Cost of the McCandless report was approximately \$8,000.