

Closure Of Loch Lomond Recreation Area In '82 Recommended To Council

2/8/82

The city of Santa Cruz Water Commission this morning recommended unanimously that the Loch Lomond recreation area not be opened this season because of severe damage to Lompico Road and equally severe damage within that portion of the Loch Lomond watershed area normally opened to the public.

The recommendation will go to the Santa Cruz City Council for decision and to the state Department of Water Resources for concurrence.

Because the Loch Lomond dam and reservoir were developed in part with state funds, the state requires the city to open the Loch Lomond recreation area each year for a season that begins March 1 and ends Sept. 15.

Under provisions of the city - state agreement, the city must go to the state for permission to alter the operation of the recrea-

tional area if for any reason it cannot be operated as agreed.

City Ranger Walt Cacace this morning outlined to commissioners the damage that occurred at the recreational spot during the storm of Jan. 4-5.

Some 15 miles of trails were damaged heavily or made virtually unusable, Cacace reported. Trees were downed, the nature trails were wrecked by washouts and there were four slides on Lompico Road.

Morris Allen, Santa Cruz water director, reported that efforts to get information on the priority of restoration of roads in the county have proven futile.

"We have been informed, however, by a director of the Lompico County Water District that residents in the area have been informed it

is highly doubtful that Lompico Road will be restored to a reasonable condition before the end of summer, at least," Allen said.

The homeowners association in Lompico has urged the city not to consider opening the recreation area this year or until Lompico Road has been restored to a reasonable standard. The road is open for one-way traffic for Lompico residents only, Allen reported.

The Loch Lomond recreation area has never paid for itself, "we have never broken even," Allen reported. He added:

"If we are to open on March 1 we will need an army of people to get it ready. There is no way the county can get the road open by then."

The city would retain its fulltime Loch Lomond personnel to get the area ready for opening in 1983.