

Floods - 1982

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Water Contamination Warnings Still Posted

Water contamination as great as 23 times the state pollution standard has been recorded at the mouth of Aptos Creek where it empties into the bay at Rio del Mar.

Warning signs posted by the county Environmental Health Department have been posted there, as well as at Soquel Creek in Capitola and the San Lorenzo River mouth on the Santa Cruz main beach. They are primarily attributed to continuing septic tank problems caused during the Jan. 4 storm.

County Supervising Sanitarian Ken

Mabie has expressed fear the contamination problem will continue for some time.

While sewer lines have been repaired, a problem continues with septic tanks that are discharging into streams or rivers, he said.

"We are continuing to check lists and lists of properties with septic failures," Mabie explained. "Some of the problems are just overwhelming."

At Lockhart Creek between Scotts Valley and Felton, for example, the storm caused the creek to change course. Septic

tanks are now under water in the creek bed.

There are numerous other instances where septic tank leach lines have been damaged.

Counts in the latest samples were highest at Aptos Creek in Rio del Mar where it showed 24,000 fecal coliform per 100 millimeters of water. The state limit for sea water is 1,000.

The counts were 11,000 at Soquel Creek on Capitola Beach. The San Lorenzo River

counts had dropped to just more than 1,000.

The warning signs are more of a "cautionary and informational" form, according to Mabie. He recommended the public to "think twice" before going into the water near any of the three listed locations.

The pollution count does drop drastically when taken at a location away from river/creek mouths, he added. The last sample at Cowells Beach, for example, was only 390 fecal coliform.

Most Soquel Merchants Are Back In Business

Three Soquel businesses flooded during the Jan. 4 storm will not reopen, it was reported at the Soquel Chamber of Commerce meeting this morning.

A majority of businesses are already open, according to CofC president Dave Tunno. Numerous others are reopening "one-by-one," with nearly all expected to be back in full operation within three weeks.

The three flood casualties included Yerba Buena Health Food Store, the Penney Palace comics and collectibles and the County Bank Card Center, added Tunno.

The card center is scheduled to be relocated in downtown Santa Cruz in the spring, according to County Bank spokesman Pete Pearson. The flood just moved forward the relocation plan.

One of the oldest Soquel traditions — Maddock's Bakery — is about three weeks away from reopening, as is the County Bank branch office, Tunno reported.

Others soon to be opening include: Ristorante Italiano, Tortilla Flats, Children's Closet and Sierra Pacific Exchange. Already open are: Town Jewelers, the Hairy Chair, Soquel Auto,

Soquel Pharmacy, Sunrise Cafe, Morgan's, Volksweks and Santa Cruz Publishing.

Tunno added that several businesses had received aid from the Soquel Disaster Relief Committee. Some \$14,000 has been collected and about \$7,000 distributed.

Chamber discussion centered around getting the word out to the public that downtown Soquel is alive and operating. Randy Norris, newly-elected corresponding secretary, was selected to organize an advertising campaign.

Other discussion included concern about the rebuilding of Old Mill Mobile

Home Park. Residents of that park, along with Heart of Soquel, were displaced because of storm damage.

Initial county building department reports indicate that the Old Mill park probably exceeds the 50 percent damage figure that is used to allow rebuilding after a disaster. Another problem is the fact that Old Mill units were on septic tanks and, under normal conditions, the county would require a sewer system to be installed as part of the reconstruction.

Chamber directors agreed to look into the issue.

Santa Cruz Budgets Money To Correct Storm Damage

The Santa Cruz City Council has made several emergency budget adjustments to cover costs related to the Jan. 4 flood.

The council has approved an emergency agreement with an engineering firm from Sacramento for \$10,000 for the Tait Street collector to the city's water system. That collector was heavily damaged in the storm and may have to be moved, according to City Manager Dick Wilson.

The Council also has approved an engineering contract of \$40,000 for replacement of two lanes of the Soquel Avenue Bridge.

Additionally at its Tuesday night meeting, the council approved \$10,000 for repairs to pilings on the wharf which were damaged during the storm and \$50,000 to cover overtime and other expenses re-

lated to emergency service operations during the storm.

The city is expecting 75 percent of the funds for the Tait Street collector, the wharf repairs and overtime expenses to be reimbursed by federal disaster funds. Wilson believes 100 percent of the money for repairs to the Soquel Avenue bridge may be reimbursed to the city.

The City Council has called a special

public hearing to solicit comments on how the city responded to the storm and what further actions could have been taken. That hearing will be part of the council's 7:30 p.m. agenda on Feb. 2.

Persons unable to attend that meeting are encouraged to send their comments in writing to the City Council, City Hall, 809 Center St., Santa Cruz 95061.