

7/15/55

City Granted Extension On Water Permit

water supply
The city of Santa Cruz has been granted a six-month extension on its two water claims on Soquel creek and the creek's west branch.

Water Superintendent Weston Webber said he received notice of the extension this morning from the state division of water resources.

The initial claims ran out June 1, but extension gives the city until January 1 to complete engineering investigations. Webber said he believes a further extension may be obtained if such a move becomes necessary.

Webber declared two days ago the city will have to build dams somewhere for water storage or else a growing population and increased water consumption might force future water rationing.

His statement was in answer to a charge of Supervisor Francis Silliman, a Pajaro valley spokesman, that the city "doesn't need Soquel water" and is trying to develop Soquel creek water in order to sell it.

Both the Pajaro valley and the Santa Clara valley, which has filed claims on Soquel and neighboring creeks, are casting acquisitive looks toward the Soquel watershed.

The city appears to have the strongest position at present, with prior claims and an option to buy 4300 acres of watershed land. Such a purchase probably would not be made unless the Soquel sites are chosen as the most favorable for dam construction and city residents approve a bond issue to pay for the scheme.