

Growth Pattern For Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz county ranks as the 10th fastest growing county in the state, according to the most recent population forecasts by the state department of finance.

The population projection is based on an 8½-year forecast to July, 1975, which estimates that Santa Cruz county will grow from 114,500 persons, as of January 1, 1967, to 148,000 persons by July, 1975.

The percentage increase for the county is 29 per cent.

Counties expected to increase at a more rapid rate than Santa Cruz are Ventura 58 per cent, Orange 51 per cent, El Dorado 49 per cent, Riverside 42, per cent, Santa Clara 39 per cent, Marin 34 per cent, San Bernardino, Contra Costa and Placer 32 per cent.

Of course, 51 per cent increase for Orange county represents a growth of 646,500 persons compared to 33,500 persons for Santa Cruz county.

The state average for the period is estimated at 21.14 per cent.

The projection gives San Mateo county a 22 per cent growth or a gain of 119,200 persons for a population of 677,500 by 1975 while Monterey county's growth is estimated at 12 per cent or 29,100 persons by 1975 for a population of 279,000.

San Benito county's growth is also estimated at 12 per cent or 2100 persons for a population of 19,800 by 1975 while

San Luis Obispo county is expected to grow by 24,000 persons or 23 per cent for a population of 128,500 by 1975.

In the larger areas, the southland figures to get the bulk of the new growth with Los Angeles county expected to add 950,500 by 1975 for a population of 7.9 million, a gain of 14 per cent. San Diego county is estimated to have a population of 1.5 million by 1975 with an increase of 224,700 or 18 per cent.

Both Ventura county and Riverside county are expected to add another 190,000 persons in the next eight years so that Riverside would have a population of 641,900 and Ventura county would have 517,000 persons.

Santa Barbara county is expected to have a growth of 28 per cent or 69,200 more persons for a population of 319,300 while in the north Marin's growth is estimated at 34 per cent for an additional 69,000 persons and a total population of 270,500.

Sonoma county, another coastal area although the population lives inland, is expected to grow by 24 per cent or 45,100 persons for a total of 231,100 and Solano anticipates a 24 per cent growth or a gain of 41,000 persons for a total population of 208,600.

The only central valley county expected to grow rapidly is Sacramento county

whose growth rate is estimated at 21 per cent for a gain of 132,900 persons by 1975 for a population of 764,700.

Fresno is expected to gain by 15 per cent with a 16 per cent growth rate for Kern county and 14 per cent for Stanislaus and only 11 per cent for San Joaquin. Merced, however, rates a 25 per cent growth for a population of 134,800 by 1975.

The state expects that San Francisco county will continue to lose population with a forecast of 731,100 by 1975 or 9000 less than the current population. Alameda, on the other hand, expects a growth rate of 18 per cent or a population of 1,244,300 by 1975, an increase of 187,200.

Santa Clara county, in the meantime, is expected to become the most populous in the Bay area with a population of 1,311,300 by 1975 or an increase of 365,300 persons.

Less than 10 per cent growth is forecast for Alpine, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Sierra and Siskiyou counties.

Actually, The Sentinel's latest forecast call for even greater growth than the state figures for Santa Cruz county unless the housing situation remains tight.

We expect that the population by 1975 could be around 169,000 for Santa Cruz county.