

1982

SC Water Director Warns:

Get A New Source, Or Begin Rationing

The city of Santa Cruz must either develop a major new water source by 1990 or begin a stringent rationing program that would include a ban on new meter connections.

That message was given to the Santa Cruz City Council Tuesday by SC Water Director Morris Allen at a study session to discuss future needs in the area served by the city water system.

The information will be used by the City Council to help it determine whether to proceed with the controversial Zayante dam and reservoir project.

Allen told the council that by 1990 the area will need a safe annual yield of an estimated 16,900 acre feet, compared to the safe annual yield of 14,050 acre feet now obtained from all sources in the present water system.

The estimates of future need are based in part on a Brown and Caldwell engineering study done in 1978, and in part upon other data obtained by Allen and his staff from the 1977-78 drought years.

The estimate includes a conservation factor of 18.6 percent.

Allen said that his own population increase forecasts are lower than in the Brown and Caldwell study because of the county and city growth management programs.

Allen foresees a population increase of 13,374 to the year 1989 at a 2 percent growth rate, and a population increase of 32,377 by the year 1999 at a 2.4 percent growth rate.

A new water source capable of providing a safe annual yield of 2,850 acre feet must be developed, Allen said, "or by 1989 the city must have a more stringent water

The Sentinel

Wednesday, January 20, 1982—Santa Cruz, Calif.—15

rationing program than Scotts Valley, with consumption for all purposes limited to 105 gallons per day per capita compared to Scotts Valley's 113 gallons per day."

The reason for the rationing and connection ban is that without a major new

water source the city will not have the capacity to serve the anticipated population, Allen said.

The needed additional safe annual yield of 2,850 acre feet is about equal to the yield the city now gets from all of its

coastal springs plus its Tait Street and Live Oak wells, and is 500 acre feet more than the city draws annually from Loch Lomond.

The proposed Zayante dam would provide lower unit costs than such alternatives as have been proposed for Scott Creek, Glenwood and Waterman Gap, said Allen.

Mayor Michael Rotkin said of Allen's presentation, "It was very clear and very useful, but we have a number of questions we want to discuss."

Rotkin scheduled another study session for Jan. 25.