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Air pollution

# Supervisors ok funds for pollution study

There was no hesitation whatsoever on the part of supervisors yesterday as they unanimously endorsed continued study of Monterey Bay pollution by Ed Hanna, Santa Cruz county's water importation consultant.

Supervisor Robert Burton, a usually cautious man when it comes to passing county funds, was quick to endorse Hanna's request that the board approve up to 100 hours monthly at \$9 per hour for him to check into the pollution control problem.

"This is a very dangerous situation," said Burton "and deserves the full attention of the board."

Supervisors agreed to appoint two of its members to serve on a tri-county pollution study committee scheduled to meet in Salinas, February 15. Appointments will be made at next week's meeting of the board.

Board action on pollution resulted from a report Hanna made to the board in which he warned that despite "constant supervision of the Water Quality Control Board and the State Board of Health ... the quality of bay waters continues to deteriorate."

As an example of what could happen if coast county officials failed to take action on pollution in time, Hanna pointed to San Francisco Bay, which he said "has become so polluted that it has become a large cess pool."

Hanna suggests two solutions to the problem, one, formation of an adequately financed agency would attempt to secure "funds for a thorough oceanographic study." The agency would be charged with keeping the study up to date "and to protect and enforce its findings."

Hanna estimates the study would take up to five years to complete and would cost upwards of \$300,000. His other recommendation was that efforts be made to establish Monterey Bay as a center of ocean sciences.

He referred to this attack on the bay's pollution problem as "the chamber of commerce approach." It would consist "of promoting appropriations" for education institutions with interests in ocean science and who would pursue studies in the Monterey Bay area. The approach would press "for expanded educational programs at the Navy Post graduate school" and the "stationing in the bay of a properly equipped naval vessel for such studies."

The program would also include encouraging coast counties junior colleges into offering "correlary course of study."

The board endorsed recommendations in a report by County Public Works Director Warren Harrison on Pajaro river pollution. The board had previously expressed concern over the possible pollution of the Pajaro river by the discharge of untreated effluent "into the upper reaches of the Pajaro river or its tributaries by the city of Gilroy."

Cause for concern was the proposed establishment of a major meat processing plant at Gilroy by the Swift company, and the lack of adequate treatment facilities to handle the increased load by Gilroy.

The board directed Harrison to file with the Regional Water Quality Control Board "a letter protesting the location of any industry on the upper reaches of the Pajaro river that would in any way change the quality of the water flowing through Santa Cruz county."

Harrison is also to correspond with similar agencies in Monterey county and San Benito county, alerting them to the dangers and suggesting they too file protests.

## Board nixes local low bid on cars

Supervisors decided at the last moment to reject Al Cheney Ford's low bid of \$34,618.31 for 19 automobiles and trucks and go to the state instead.

The vote was close, 3-2, with supervisors, Robert Burton, Vincent Locatelli and Henry Mello voting against awarding the contract locally. Mello opened the subject, noting that the county would be paying \$3,911 more for the vehicles by purchasing them locally. The state, said Mello, can provide the same make vehicles at 11.2 per cent less than the local dealer.

Mello said he felt an economy-minded board "should try to save the taxpayers money wherever possible."

Although he seconded Mello's motion that the bid (from Cheney) be rejected, Locatelli said he wanted it understood that he would like to see the board favor "local dealers" whenever possible.

Mello noted there would be an additional savings of \$950.93 by the county when time came to purchase eight more vehicles now slated for the future, if it continued to utilize the state purchase plan.

## Seeks road aid

A minimum grant of \$100,000 is sought from the federal bureau of public roads by Cong. Burt Talcott for improvements on Highway 17. The money would be spent on the most dangerous parts of the highway in an effort to improve safety.

WATSONVILLE -- City councilmen are considering the bad news that \$1 million must be spent to expand the city sewage plant.