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No action ^{2/3/77} this month on water

Live Oak residents, along with the other customers of the Santa Cruz city water system, face the prospect of a water-short summer.

But Santa Cruz city officials said this week that no action on water rationing or service cutbacks will be publicly considered until the end of February.

All of Live Oak and the western edge of the city of Capitola is served by the Santa Cruz city system.

A water department spokesman said this week customers outside the city won't be treated any differently than those inside in terms of water availability.

"It won't be a different situation for Live Oak than anywhere else in the service area," said Tracy Bliss.

The city relies on water wells for only a portion of its water supply. The remainder comes from coastal streams, Loch Lomond reservoir, and the Felton diversion dam on the San Lorenzo River.

With a prolonged winter drought, Loch Lomond reservoir is about one-third full. The amount of water available from it this year and from all other sources won't equal the demand normally experienced during the summer months.

The city water commission is proposing major curbs in the exterior use of water by homeowners in the service area. This would include cutbacks in lawn watering, gardens, car washing, sidewalk hosing, etc.

Also mentioned as a possibility is a cutback in the amount of water delivered by the city to north coast Brussels sprout farmers this summer.

Santa Cruz city councilman Bert Muhly, Tuesday night, called for a joint meeting between the council and water commission to discuss the issue before any formal action is taken.

The water shortage danger is not present in the Soquel Creek County Water District service area, which depends entirely on water wells for its drinking water supplies.