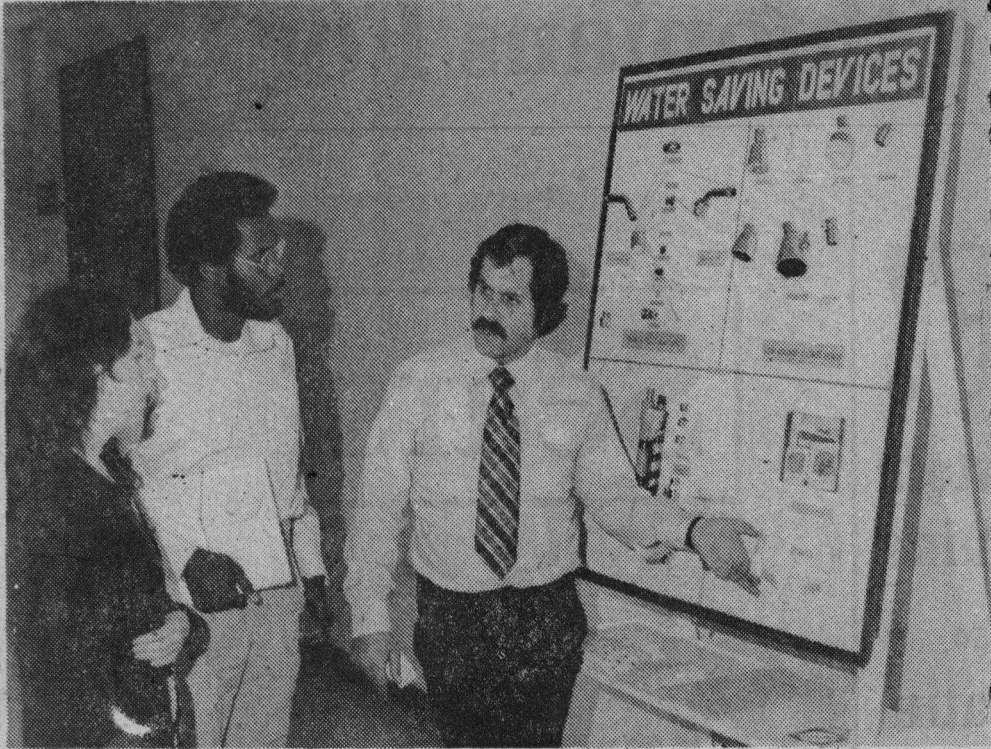


RR SC - Water Crisis



County To Begin Conservation Plan

5/8/77

Santa Cruz County has responded to the continuing drought with a six-month emergency Water Conservation Program, sponsored by county supervisors and local water districts.

Water conservation is not an exclusive concern to county residents, since Montana and Idaho have threatened to sue the state of Washington if it seeds clouds that pass over the state, possibly prohibiting rainfall in their drought-plagued areas.

An even more stringent conservation program has been launched in Marin County, with housewives saving their dishwasher for flushing toilets as a common conservation method. Restaurant owners' water bill have skyrocketed as residents go out to dinner more often and use the restaurant's toilets. One restaurateur is considering closing the bathrooms of his establishment and renting chemical toilets to be placed in the parking lot.

In Santa Cruz, 75 people are employed within the distribution, installation and education teams of the water saving project. Employees of the education unit recently visited Marin County to research their methods of dealing with the problem. Cathy Paul and

Warren James visited with Paul Cheatham, administrator for the Marin Municipal Water Conservation Program, to pick up many helpful ideas, materials and hints for county water educators.

The educational group is currently developing a comprehensive curriculum on water and energy conservation for use in county schools. James and Paul also visited with Mollie Rights, director of education for the Marin Museum of Natural Science, who is conducting a pilot project on environmental education. This project is aimed towards increasing kindergarten through sixth grade children's awareness of the critical need for water and energy conservation.

Chris Cole, a third member of the team has been conferring with county school officials on developing a similar curriculum, and the opening of school in September has been targeted for distribution of water and energy conservation materials for the schools.

Rick Hamill, coordinator for the education unit, has asked that anyone with ideas or experiences that would relate to developing such materials contact him at 426-8320.

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