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County May Be Included In Tri-County Water Authority

Water Supply
Possibility of inclusion of Santa Cruz county in a contemplated tri-county water authority is "worth discussing," Board of Supervisors Chairman Gus Wahlberg said today.

Wahlberg said he planned to check with the other county supervisors today to see what they think of the report that Senator Donald Grunsky and Assemblyman Glenn E. Coolidge have suggested possibility of bringing Santa Cruz county into the proposed water authority for Santa Clara, San Benito and southern Alameda counties.

The legislators from this district brought up the idea at a meeting of central coast area legislators this week in Sacramento. The bill for creation of the water authority is set for hearing by the senate water resources committee for April 25.

Possibilities discussed by the legislative group, should Santa Cruz county eventually join the water authority, were that the Pajaro valley might be served by an extension through Chittenden pass of conduits which would bring central valley water to San

Benito county, and that membership in the authority might avert Santa Cruz-Santa Clara county water rights disputes.

"If there is a way to get water over the mountains at the southern end of the county without bothering the northern end," Wahlberg commented today, "it is worth talking about."

He said he might call a meeting of the supervisors tomorrow morning, before the hotly controversial issue of proposed formation of a county-wide water district comes up for hearing in the afternoon, to explore the new idea put forward by the legislators.

"I'm supervisor to see what the other supervisors think about it today," he said.

The proposed act for creation of a county-wide water district, drafted by Attorney Wilson after an earlier proposal raised a storm of protest from the northern end of the county, will come up for its first hearing by the board of supervisors at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Indications are that the city of Santa Cruz stands alone in objecting strongly to the new proposal. Representatives of other areas of the county, who met two weeks ago with the board at a dinner session to go over the new proposal's provisions, have expressed themselves in favor of the proposed act.