

Council Refuses To Open Reservoir To Sportsmen

By Len Klempnauer

If Santa Cruz fishermen had thought of trying their hand at pulling out some of the 200,000 trout planted in Newell creek reservoir, they'd just better put their rods and reels back in cold storage—at least this season.

City councilman, feeling the financial pinch of an empty pocket, declared last night they did not have the funds to open the upper portion of the reservoir.

But they said everything possible would be done to open the facility next year for fishing as well as for other recreational uses.

"Our hands are more or less tied by inadequate funds, said Mayor Bert Snyder, "The water department is in the red.

"But the facilities will be made available whenever funds become available."

Water Department Director Wes Webber said costs needed to develop the temporary facility for fishing purposes would run from \$7000 to \$10,000.

But Dave Sachau, president of the Santa Cruz Rod and Gun club, questioned the estimated costs as possibly being too high and put forth a proposal that might offset the costs.

He said a parking lot near the

reservoir could handle 100 cars for 60 days of fishing at \$1 per vehicle, thereby creating \$6000 which would balance the costs.

The council, however, said it did not have the money even to start the project.

City Attorney John Barber said inadequately prepared access roads create a state of liability and the city might be in store for a number of suits.

Councilman George Wilson said the city had obligated itself to develop an overall recreational area at the reservoir and not just a place for fishing.

"We can't do this halfway," Wilson said, prior to moving that the fishing proposal be denied because of lack of funds.

Dr. John Daly said he was against opening the area this year "just as a matter of dollars and cents."

Robert Warne said it would be two months before an application to open the area could be approved by the state and he questioned the amount of fishing that might be done during July and August when the water in the upper fishing area would warm and the fish would head to the lower end of the reservoir.

The council insisted that development of the area would get under way when \$300,000 in state funds to help pay for the dam is acquired.

The state moneys, as stated by Webber, would not go for development of the recreation proposal but would, however, free other funds that would be used for this purpose.

Game Warden Forrest McDermott said the city had obligated itself to provide facilities and couldn't live up to them now. He added that, if the water department couldn't handle the job, then it should be put under another department's jurisdiction.

Mayor Snyder said the dam project had cost more than was estimated and that's why money to get the recreation program under way was not available. He said if control of the area was switched to another department, it might be 10 years instead of next year before the reservoir would be opened to the public.

The motion for denial was approved unanimously.

Wilson, in the pre-council meeting, warned that there would be tough sledding for any city employee or official who was caught poaching in the reservoir.