

Health

Santa Cruz To Become Laboratory For Study Of Public Health Problems

Santa Cruz will become a "laboratory" for a long-range study of public health-problems next week.

Officials from 40 California cities have been invited to an environmental health course sponsored by federal and state public health officials that will last from November 18-23.

The results of their week-long study will provide a comprehensive picture of the city's health needs far into the future.

A "challenge panel" of national health experts will see to it that the picture is not "way out" of focus financially or practically.

Object of the course is to encourage better local planning on health problems.

Task force groups of city officials will spend much of the week probing and learning the state of the city on such matters as water,

sewage, refuse disposal, air pollution, planning problems, radiological health and general health.

Under the guidance of experts, each group will prepare reports on current facilities and suggest means of improvement.

Later, the U.S. Public Health department will publish the recommendations in an over-all report.

Santa Cruz is the fourth city to undergo such intensive scrutiny. Merced, Santa Rosa and Chico have been the locations of similar "schools" in the past year.

Norman Tucker, chief of metropolitan planning of the national public health service, and R. L. Tarbett, chief of sanitation consultant section of the state department of public health, will be co-chairmen of the training course.

Sessions will begin at 8 a.m. November 18 at the Dream Inn.

Conferees will first have classes in each of the health problem areas. They will be sent out the following day on "field trips" to gather report data.

Preliminary reports will then be examined by a panel of health experts, and the class sent out again, if necessary, to make corrections in its data.

Finally, the following Saturday, final reports will go before the "challenge panel" for an intensive critique.

The Saturday session, to be held in civic auditorium beginning at 8:30 a.m., will be open to the public.

San Francisco, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, San Benito and Monterey counties will be represented.

Most city and county officials in Santa Cruz county already have said they will send delegates to the training program.

The California League of Cities, County Supervisors association, and the Public Health Service region nine, have expressed support of the program, and plan to cooperate in the training school.

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