

Water Supply 1970-79

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Water district studies plan for repayment

The Soquel Creek County Water District staff hopes to have a main extension repayment policy ready for adoption by the board of directors before the end of the fiscal year June 30, Manager Robert Thompson said this week.

Under the district's present policy, if a property - owner has to put in an eight-inch water main to serve an apartment house he is building, he does not get any money back for his outlay from other property - owners who develop their land later.

A neighboring landowner could put in an apartment house next door and hook it up to the costly eight-inch main just by paying the usual "storage and transmission" fees charged by the district. He wouldn't have to pay anything for the water main.

The district's directors

recognize this isn't altogether fair, Johnson said. They have been studying the main extension repayment policies of other agencies, and have asked the staff for recommendations. The staff evaluation is not yet complete.

"A major policy change like this takes a little thought," he said. "We have to evaluate if there are any inequities in our procedure. In the flat areas, the problem is fairly straightforward. But when you have our topography, and our spot development, you could create a monster."

He said the district has a draft now adequate to handle the standard small main extension, although "there is a problem or two left."

The question of repayment for major facilities, such as a

reservoir required for a subdivision, is more complicated, Johnson pointed out.

"Suppose a subdivider has to

put in a reservoir. Is he entitled to repayment?" he asked. "And how do you determine it?"

Johnson said the board of

directors wants a "total solution" to the problem before adopting any part of a main extension repayment policy.