

# SC Water Commission Seeks Studies On Evaluating Supply In The Future

2/8/82

Two studies to evaluate the city's water supplies and future water demands were approved by the Santa Cruz Water Commission this morning for recommendation to the City Council.

One study would cost an estimated \$43,300, the other an estimated \$12,000. Both would be coordinated for completion in about 3½ months.

The major study would consider all the data assembled by the Water Department to show the need for a major new water source by the year 1990. The study would check the validity of the data and then apply verified data to a calculation of what the water needs will be over the next 20 years.

The lesser study would in effect be an analysis of the city's water supply system. This study would look at the system from a statistical basis and come up with such essential planning data as safe annual yield, sustained yield and whether the system could meet

demand when the water service area is totally built out.

The city is not doing well in its search for a new water supply, commissioners were told this morning by Gene Watson, assistant water director.

Watson detailed that in addition to failing to get a new water source through an underground collector system near the San Lorenzo River, the city has also met with failure in developing new sources in the north coast area.

At one time it was estimated by Earth Sciences Associates that the city might be able to develop as much as 3,000 acre feet of water by means of the underground collector and north coast wells.

But the underground collector was found to be unfeasible because the river was not recharging the aquifer.

And this morning Watson reported that two test wells on the north coast provided no usable return.

The city will now shift its attention to the

San Lorenzo River alluvial basin that lies within the downtown area.

Commissioner Don Haile commented that the city seems to have to keep poking holes in the ground to prove that the most feasible new water source is the Zayante dam and reservoir.

But in urging that the studies of the city's water supply and future water needs be undertaken, Haile cautioned that official figures are needed, data that will be credible to persons opposed to the Zayante project.

Morris Allen, Santa Cruz water director, noted that the city's service area includes part of Capitola, all of Live Oak, Santa Cruz Gardens, Pasatiempo, Rolling Woods and the north coast, as well as the city itself. To get official figures will require the cooperation of the county and Capitola planning departments, he said.

"Getting official figures is crucial," Haile said. "There is an element in our society that opposes the project because they believe it is not needed."