

WATER SUPPLY 5-25-93  
Water 1B

# filtration plant on tap

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The San Lorenzo Valley Water District will build a \$2.6 million water treatment plant in Boulder Creek to filter surface water drawn from area creeks.

The plant is part of a \$3.5 million program to upgrade the district's 52-year-old water system.

The plant will help the district comply with new federal regulations that were designed to protect the public from diseases caused by bacteria and viruses sometimes found in surface water.

## Big project

"It's a big, big project," said Ken Girard, district engineer. "In terms of money and complications, it's probably our largest one ever."

The district has hired a San Jose-based construction firm, the Dan Caputo Co., to build the plant on its property off Madrone Drive. Construction is expected to begin next month and be completed in the summer of 1994.

Two filtration units each will treat 350 gallons per minute, said Girard. A third unit could be added later if customer demand for water increases, he said.

The water district, which serves almost 6,000 customers in the Santa Cruz Mountains, is also planning to install about five miles of pipelines over the next three years to carry water to and from the new plant.

Most of the district's customers live between northern Boulder Creek and Ben Lomond. The water company relies on surface water from six San Lorenzo Valley creeks to supply those customers during the rainy season. In the summer, when the creeks dry up, the district pumps groundwater out of the Santa Margarita aquifer.

The district also relies on groundwater year-round to supply about 1,000 families and businesses it serves in Scotts Valley.

## Viruses, organisms

The water district has been treating surface water with chlorine to kill viruses and organisms such as giardia, which can cause severe flu-like symptoms in humans. Because giardia and some disease-causing viruses can survive chlorination treatment, federal regulations require water companies to begin filtering surface supplies as well this summer. (The San Lorenzo Valley Water District has a waiver from the health department giving it three years to get its plant on line.)

The water district has received a low-interest loan from the state, which is responsible for enforcing the new regulations, to pay for the improvements.