

RR - Calif & SC Water Crisis

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Water-Saving Policy Approved In Mid-County

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County Sanitation District directors Thursday approved a policy encouraging cutbacks in amounts of wastewater generated by the East Cliff, Capitola and Aptos areas.

Self-conservation of water will be urged, while at the same time the district staff will check with the public on acceptance of required use of water saving devices.

The action was recommended to the directors by Don Porath, the county public works director who acts as the district's engineer.

In a written report considered by the district direc-

tors, Porath noted that conventional toilets use an average of six gallons per flush and that five per person per day is typical.

Field tests conducted by the state Department of Water Resources on conventional toilets which have been fitted with volume-reducing or flush-control devices showed that water savings of up to 25 per cent can be effected. But because not all toilets can be fitted and because some devices available enable savings of less than 25 per cent, the use of devices on average has been figured to save from 10 to 18 per cent, Porath's report read.

Other water savings devices

can be fitted to faucets which now produce a standard flow of up to five gallons per minute. One device noted, Conservator, provides a flow of but two gallons per minute.

During discussion, Director Dan Forbus said he would approve the policy of encouraging self-conservation, but made it clear he wants either the county supervisors or the district to require installation of water savings devices in all new construction.

The sanitation district has the clout to get that legislation on the books because the county cannot issue a building permit without a sewer permit, and the district can deny a sewer per-

mit if it so wishes.

Hill Nelson, district chairman, commented on water consumption in general, saying: "There is a terrific waste of water by the public. The people are not willing to listen to talk about conservation, but a time will come when they are going to have to listen."

Two water conservation spokesmen, John Mitchell and Thomas Milliken of Aquarian Enterprise, told the directors that water savings techniques and devices used by them have

enabled a family of five to save some 110 gallons per day. Mitchell reported that some 40 per cent of water used by a household is for removal of human waste, and he said:

"It is interesting. Society spends money and time to bring high quality water into a home. But much of this is used for waste. Then the water goes with sewage to a treatment plant and is converted back into high quality just to dump it into the ocean."

Forbus, long an exponent of

returning wastewater to the earth for recycling, said he agreed that some of the money used for dams and water collection should be put into methods for pumping wastewater back into the ground.

But he added: "I don't find many supporters of this. I'm not able to sell this to too many people."

In other business, directors agreed to continue the practice of collecting district sewer charges along with the county's general taxes.

