

# More groundwater monitoring wells will be drilled in mid-county area

**SOQUEL** — Soquel Creek Water District directors moved ahead Monday night with an extension of its already intense monitoring well network.

That network — at a cost of some \$750,000 so far — monitors groundwater in the mid-county, determining the quality and quantity of water, and the district's potential for greater recharge. The wells have already told the district that it is not in an "overdraft" situation — correcting a determination by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1980.

Five new monitoring wells will be drilled at a cost of \$125,563. District

Manager Bob Johnson said an additional \$125,000 will be needed to design and install the monitoring equipment. The new wells will be located in the Rio del Mar/Seascape area and run to La Selva Beach.

The wells will monitor groundwater in the so-called Aromas Red Sands formation that underlies the coastal area, said Johnson. The district's existing wells monitor groundwater in the Purisma formation, which runs deeper and is more inland.

In other business, the Water Board accepted a bid from James Montgomery Engineers for a study to

make priorities on future water main replacements in the district. The study, which is not to exceed \$25,000, will take five months to complete.

Consultants will recommend what water mains — under four inches in diameter — should be replaced first. Recommendations will be based on such things as improving water service to the most customers and reducing maintenance costs.

The study was prompted by residents of the ridge area in Rio del Mar who complained that inadequately-sized mains were contributing to a fire-protection problem in their area.