

WATER SUPPLY 101990

Another stab made at figuring water yields

By BOB SMITH

It will take another year to get the final figures, but the Soquel Creek County Water District directors approved an agreement Monday night with a Davis water consulting firm to calculate the yield of the Midcounty's groundwater basins.

The board approved a \$45,000 agreement with Luhdorff and Scalmanini to compute the basin's water yield as part of a three-pronged program that includes the testing and analysis of the district's water wells and training district employees in setting up a data collection, analysis and record-keeping system.

The firm was hired by the district during the political controversy over a U.S. Geological Survey report on the basin that said a groundwater overdraft existed and seawater intrusion into the area's water supplies was possible.

Following the lifting of the water connection ban imposed

by the district, the firm then proposed and has been overseeing construction of five coastal monitoring wells along the Midcounty coast and three inland exploratory wells.

The firm is also seeking a \$259,000 grant from the state for its continued study of the Midcounty's underground water supply. A state decision on the proposal won't be made until late next year, consultant Joe Scalmanini told the board.

The agreement approved Monday night is the final phase of its program, district General Manager Robert Johnson said, with the consulting firm testing each of the district's production wells to determine the aquifer characteristics, training district personnel to continue collecting data from the wells in future years, and setting up a record-keeping system.

Once that is done, the consultants will use the data they will have collected to compute the

annual yield from the basin and advise the district on how the groundwater basin should be managed in the future.

The work is expected to be completed in April 1983.

Luhdorff and Scalmanini was also awarded a \$7,300 contract to design a new water well in the Soquel area.

The district has planned for several years to drill a new well to serve the Capitola-Soquel area; the district is pumping the existing wells for longer than recommended periods each day, Johnson said.

Johnson told the board members that he'd like to see a new well drilled on the district-owned land along Soquel Creek at Bridge Street because it could easily be tied into the proposed water treatment plant that would purify water pumped from Soquel Creek.

Scalmanini, however, told the board that it may be better to drill the well on Rosedale Avenue, at the back of the

district offices, in Soquel.

Scalmanini said the known water-bearing stratum at the Bridge Street site is fairly close to the surface, and that could create problems in the operation of a high-production well like the one proposed by the water district. He said it might be better to move further away from the mountains to the Rosedale site where the water bearing stratum is deeper.

Another possibility is to tap the recently discovered water stratum that apparently underlies the known ones in the Soquel Valley area.

That stratum was discovered during the drilling of a test well off Cherryvale Road, but hasn't been fully explored yet.

In other business, the board:

—Approved a memorial resolution honoring the late Lawrence J. Bargetto for his 21 years of service to the community as a water district director.

At the request of district counsel Robert Bosso, the board

continued a discussion on whether the district should continue to pay health insurance premiums for Bargetto's widow (an extension of a policy the district has for regular employees of the district who die before reaching age 65) until Bargetto would have reached age 65 — approximately five years from now.

Bosso said he wanted to research the proposal before the board, which seemed to favor the idea, acted on the proposal.

—Approved supplying water for one year through a temporary connection to Camp St. Francis in Seascape while the camp drills a new water drill.

The camp was told recently by the state health department to stop using its present shallow well because of high nitrate concentrations in the water. The district was asked by the private camp to waive its storage and transmission fees of \$29,000 and allow the camp to hook up

permanently to the district's water supply, but board members turned that proposal down on the recommendation of Johnson. The one-year connection, however, gives the camp time to drill its new well, estimated to cost \$17,000.

—Awarded a \$44,639 contract to Mid-State Underground Construction for installation of 1,368 feet of new six-inch pipeline on Creek and Moosehead Drives and Hainline Road in the Rio del Mar Flats. Mid-State was the low bidder of 12 firms for the work. The district's estimate for the work was \$57,545.

—Authorized the district staff to call for bids on pipeline replacement in the La Selva Beach area. Bids will be opened Jan. 14, and a contract awarded by the board on Jan. 17.

—Approved water service for the 12 units of low-income housing the county Housing Authority wants to build on Grace Street at 44th Avenue in Capitola.