

Water Supply Protection Held No. 1 Problem

Cleansing and conserving the Southland's underground water is a problem on a par with purifying the region's atmosphere by smog control, it was made clear yesterday by witnesses before an Assembly Interim Committee at the opening of a week-long hearing on water pollution and industrial waste.

Two areas singled out as facing critical water shortages under present programs are the Antelope Valley and the region around Malibu. In both localities, George B. Gleason, engineer for the State Division of Water Resources, testified, available water supplies fall far short of current demands.

Engineer's Report

In Antelope Valley, Gleason said underground water is diminishing at the rate of 100,000 acre-feet a year. At Malibu, residents face the possibility of the ruin of existing water sources should a source of pollution suddenly arise.

Chairman Raymond V. Darby of the Board of Supervisors, a witness before the committee, announced prior to taking the stand that he would request the Supervisors to sponsor a program of legislation leading to formation of a State Pollution Control Authority to rank with the recently instituted smog control legislation.

Sailor's Body Found in Oil Storage Tank

The body of a young sailor—tentatively identified as Marco Graham, 19, of the U.S.S. Helena—was found yesterday at the bottom of a 10-foot oil storage tank near Mendocino Ave. and Ocean Blvd., Long Beach.

Workers found the youth when they drained the tank. The first identification was made from a tag on the body, police reported.

There were no marks of violence, investigators said.

The Helena sailed at 8:45 a.m. yesterday for the operating area off San Clemente Island.

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