

Antelope Valley Water Saving Project Backed

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DAM SITE—Eric Munz, Antelope Valley rancher, points out to Len Leydecker, conservation advocate, site of one

of six dams proposed to divert runoff waters of southern side of Antelope Valley into underground storage basin.

Times photo

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LANCASTER, March 28—Proposed installation of small diversion dams along the entire south side of the Antelope Valley to put to use runoff flood waters was endorsed today by Antelope Valley soil conservation leaders.

The endorsement followed careful study of the plan and inspection of sites for flood control dams as suggested by Robert Perry of the United States Soil Conservation Service in San Fernando, who made the preliminary survey.

The plan, according to Roy Barth, president of the Antelope Valley conservation organization, provides for six small flood control dams in strategic locations.

These dams would divert flood waters into the underground basin by a series of spreading basins. This would build up the underground supply to be drawn upon to water the more than 40,000 acres of irrigated lands.

Without control dams, the flood waters frequently damage highways and irrigated fields, Barth explained.

"The major thought in this type of construction is to conserve California's most priceless commodity—water," said Barth. "Toward that end, the agricultural conservation program of the Production and Marketing Administration has been solicited for assistance in speeding the project as it relates to conservation of water. The only limitation to Antelope Valley's productiveness is water, and we feel that every measure should be taken to save all of the runoff."

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