

AVEK to hold water hearing

Local water industry experts say they'll take part in a series of hearings by Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency to evaluate alternative methods to solve the region's water problems.

The first hearing will be held this Tuesday night, Jan. 23, as part of the agency's regular directors' meeting, which will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the AVEK headquarters, 554 W. Lancaster Blvd.

During the meeting, the directors are expected to approve a semi-annual payment on the state water contract in the amount of about \$905,000. AVEK will pay the

state about \$2½ million this year.

President Al E. Skelton said today the Water Agency has signed contracts to deliver State Project Water to local community water systems serving Lancaster, Quartz Hill, Hi Vista, Sun Village, Pearblossom, Acton, Elizabeth Lake, Rosamond, Mojave, Desert Lake and Boron.

He said officials of these water systems met with Water Agency representatives this week (January 16) to determine how they might contribute to the Water Agency hearings.

"Because these retail water

suppliers are satisfied with the Agency's current supplemental water system proposal, they have indicated some coolness toward exploring other ways," Skelton reported. "However, they have assured the Agency that they will take an active role in the hearings."

In calling the hearings, the Water Agency noted a twofold purpose. One is to seek out some possible new approach that might prove superior to the Water Agency's plan to build pipelines and other facilities needed to make State Project water available to community water systems. The other objective is to give local taxpayers and water users "hard" facts on which to base their own conclusions about the best way to combat the area's problem of disappearing groundwater supplies.

Skelton said that while many different water shortage solutions have been referred to, few of them have

ever been explained in detail or subjected to critical analysis by well-informed people. Among them, he said, have been claims that "we don't need any more water" or that "the county can solve the problem".

"If these or other counter-suggestions are truly better," said Skelton, "they should replace the Water Agency plan. But if they have flaws, these shortcomings ought to be brought to public attention. The public hearings now underway by the Agency should result in clear and unbiased conclusions one way or the other. We are pleased that the local water industry will be helping reach those conclusions."

Airport District may handle fuel servicing

Customer complaints of bad service could lead to the Mojave Airport District taking over complete operation of the aviation fuel concessions there.

This was the feeling of the district's board of directors Thursday afternoon after hearing of several incidents involving private pilots who were unable to refuel their aircraft because neither of the two gasoline concessionaires could be found.

Aviation fuel at Mojave Airport is sold by Earle Roper and Rick English, under concessionaire agreements held with the district.

But Mojave resident Virginia Keturi told district directors at their Thursday meeting she had heard of several pilots . . . even on weekends . . . who had landed to refuel but could not locate an attendant to service their air-

take over the refueling operations.

"And besides, the district would be picking up a little bit of money at the same time", he offered.

In other board business, directors approved expenditures not to exceed \$600 for the purchase of a paint spray system. It will be used to begin rehabilitating the exterior of many of the buildings there.

The district has turned down participation in a federal matching funds program which would have provided \$19,800 for new runway and taxiway lights.

"We don't need new lights that much now, and we can put the money to better use somewhere else", said Sabovich.

The district joined with the city council and community services district at California

Council sets meeting on burning rules

Palmdale City Council will hold a special meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, to consider a resolution urging the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to change burning regulations for the Antelope Valley.

The special meeting will be held in the Courson Park Community Building, 1002 E. Ave. Q-12.

The resolution requests the change in burning rules for the disposal of lumber and

Messinger enters not guilty plea

Accused of stabbing a Lancaster man to death last month in a downtown Lancaster parking lot, 20-year-old Allen Lee Messinger has entered a not guilty plea and his trial set for Feb. 27 in the Van Nuys Superior Court.

Victim was Franklin Yarbrough, 39, who lived at 705 Woodgate, in Lancaster.

A member of the Coast Guard, Messinger was home on leave at the time of the fatal stabbing. Reportedly, he administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to his victim following the stabbing but Yarbrough was dead on arrival at the Antelope Valley Medical Center.

Messinger was arraigned

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