

AVEK releases new report on utilization of water

Taxpayers and water users in Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency can save hundreds of thousands of dollars in energy costs if this area uses all the water it can get from the State Water Project during the next few years.

The savings will result from a contract between the State and suppliers of the electricity needed to run the pumps in the State Water Project. This contract will remain in effect until 1983, according to C. D. Smith, a director of Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency.

During the next nine years, he said, power costs within the State Project will be stabilized by the current rates, while costs for energy to pump local groundwater will continue to escalate, Smith advised:

"The more State Project water we can put to use here while the present power contract is in effect the more we will save in water costs, now and later."

If this area can use the most water available from the State Water Project prior to 1983, the savings will continue for many years beyond that date, Smith said. That's because the importation of State Project water will result in local groundwater tables remaining higher than they would have otherwise. Therefore, it will require less energy to pump groundwater thereafter.

"We will always need and use our groundwater resources," Smith pointed out, "even when we are using our maximum entitlement from the State Water Project. The lower the water table drops,

the more it will cost to lift it to the surface.

Turn that around and we can see that stopping the present decline in the water table, or raising it, will save hundreds of thousands of dollars in energy costs for a long time in the future."

Smith said although the State Water Project consumes a lot of electricity, it also generates vast amounts of "smog-free" hydroelectric power. He said the project is expected to help ward off threatened black-outs due to anticipated power shortages. Said Smith:

"The State Water Project pumps water (and uses electricity) during 'off-peak' periods when there is a surplus of electric power generating capacity available. The project then generates hydroelectric power during peak demand hours, when shortages are most apt to occur. Therefore, the State Water Project should prove to be a 'plus' factor in the battle to provide enough electricity for all needs in California."

Smith referred to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power hydroelectric generating plant now in operation between Pyramid and Castaic reservoirs of the State Water Project (between Gorman and Newhall). He said this installation is designed to pump water back uphill into Pyramid Lake during off-peak periods, when power is plentiful and thus cheaper, so it can generate power during peak periods, when consumers demand greater-than-normal quantities of electricity.



TRAPPED MOTORIST — Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics work over Jesse William Hendrix, driver of an unknown Yucca Tree automobile involved in a crash at Division St. and Palmdale Blvd. on Tuesday. Barbara Margaret Auger, 37, of

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Almond Crate Derby slated

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