

was held Tuesday at the Holiday Inn in Palmdale with about 100 in attendance. Chairman was Ed Schramm, left, chairman of the AVBOT Water and Agriculture Committee, and speakers were, from left, Bob Eiland

the Lahontan District Water Quality Control Board; and William Hardt of the Garden Grove Geological Survey office.

—valley press photo

Aqueduct water for farming decision will take some time

Use of California Aqueduct water for agriculture won't happen quickly, but the proposal will be given careful, long-range consideration.

That was the gist of comments made near the conclusion of a morning and early-afternoon AV Board of Trade Water Seminar, held in the Holiday Inn in Palmdale Tuesday.

Wallace Spinarski, general manager of the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency, was the focal-point speaker in the afternoon session following the luncheon.

Spinarski said:

"We appreciate the urgency that many potential agricultural water users feel about this issue . . . We are moving full speed ahead to resolve the uncertainties that remain.

"When these uncertainties are resolved, it may prove that agricultural use of State Project water has limited feasibility.

"We hope it will prove otherwise, but to leap to that conclusion without full consideration of all the many facts involved could prove

most damaging to the agricultural industry we are attempting to serve."

Spinarski pointed out that a committee of the AVEK board and the Agriculture and Water committees of the Board of Trade held a 3½-hour session Monday.

Define Questions

"The principal result of this

meeting was to define the questions which will require answers from the Department of Water Resources," Spinarski said.

The Board of Trade on Tuesday, Jan. 2, passed a resolution urging that AVEK encourage the use of California Aqueduct water for agricultural purposes.

The proposal suggests that groups of farmers band together to finance water lines to deliver aqueduct water to their properties.

Spinarski pointed out that two economic shifts have taken place recently which encourages farmers to seek aqueduct water. They are the sharp rise in pumping costs and the high prices farmers are able to get for their commodities.

Spinarski said that the AVEK agency is studying the prospect of holding another bond election (two previous elections failed to muster the then required two-thirds votes) to finance the agency's proposed system.

Because of a new law, the next bond vote could be passed by a simple majority.

Spinarski said that the agency is still debating whether to hold its election in June or November.

He said that studies of establishing the agency's water system by piece-meal methods have shown that such an approach would be more expensive to the taxpayers — about 30 per cent more expensive in the Lancaster-Quartz Hill area.

Other Speakers

Also speaking after the se-

(Continued on Page 2)

Mojave county center building given approval

BAKERSFIELD — Preliminary plans for the second of three buildings planned for the Kern County regional administrative center in Mojave have been approved by the county Board of Supervisors.

Tuesday's action confirmed the general appearance of the new Mojave justice building and was the second time the preliminary plans for the building had gone before the board.

Earlier, the board rejected the drawings because the general appearance of the

building did not conform with the office structure now nearing completion at the new county site, just south of the Mojave Airport on Hwy. 58.

Thursday, Feb. 14, has been set as the day when the new administrative building will be dedicated in a 1:30 p.m. ceremony expected to draw county and civic officials from throughout east Kern County.

The new building will house nearly all Kern County functions now located in the old Mojave Justice Court complex and at other sites throughout Mojave.

The new justice building, when completed late this year or early in 1975, will contain facilities for the sheriff's department, a jail, court facilities, and a constable's office.

County planners have budgeted \$494,000 for the justice building.

A third building to complete the regional center will be a new county library, but construction of it is not expected to begin for at least a year, perhaps more.

Fire causes \$800 damage

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Edison customers to bear cost increase

Southern California Edison Company customer bills will rise substantially because of unilateral price increases by foreign fuel oil suppliers over whom Edison has no control, Jack K. Horton, chairman and chief executive officer, announced Wednesday.

The price of foreign oil has jumped 70 per cent in the past three months, and Tuesday the California Public Utilities Commission authorized Edison to pass on the higher cost to its customers, Horton said. It

will result in typical residential customer bills increasing an average of about 14 per cent, he said. The higher rates will become effective Feb. 1, according to the CPUC.

Oil Cost Increase

The cost of oil to Edison has shot up from \$8 a barrel to more than \$13.50 since last November, the utility executive noted.

"Edison's need for low sulfur fuel oil has grown from 9.5 million barrels in 1969 to about 61 million barrels in 1971," Hortonsaid. "Five years

Ain't gonna be no rain, just cloudy

The dampness in the air these past couple of mornings doesn't mean rain in the offing, but clouds will hang right in there for the rest of the week, according to the National Weather Service Office in Palmdale.

Today (Thursday) will be

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district.

Finance supervisor Dennis Valdez reported on ways possible to reduce annual deficit audit fees and discussed audit procedures in general.

Sherrill reported some 14 properties of varying size were subject to acquisition by Collector's deeds for delinquent accounts and recommended adoption of a resolution to name a collector for the deeds. This will be presented for action at the next meeting of the board, together with possible action on acquiring the deeds.

Dr. Francis H. Bourne reported on current legislation and on the recently released State Water Project report. The latter reflects estimated operating costs have greatly increased, while conservation costs reflect a slight downward trend.

Several routine administrative matters were acted upon before the board adjourned, with the next regular meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11.

Rosamond 'Mayor' kickoff set

ROSAMOND — Citizens from throughout this community are invited to take part in the Honorary Mayor Kick-Off Breakfast set for Saturday morning, Feb. 2, at the Community Building to announce candidates in the annual fundraising race.

Winner of the month-long event will succeed Charles Brannen as the chief community representative at civic functions over the next year throughout Antelope Valley.

The breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m., with actual introduction of candidates between 9:30 and 10 a.m.

Already announced as a candidate is Harold Streets, to be sponsored by the Rosamond VFW post.

Candidate collecting the most money, through fund-raising events, is declared winner. The event is sponsored by the Rosamond Women's Club, with proceeds used to support local youth activities.

Chambers

SCHOOL BOARDS SPEAKER — William Brown, attorney for the Association of California School Administrators, Monday night addressed the An-

telope Valley School Boards Association during the group's meeting at the Antelope Valley College.

BOT Water Seminar...

minar luncheon were Barney Flinn, of the Mojave Public Utilities District; Jim Riley, California City councilman; John Harris, of Rosamond; and Ed Schramm, who served as chairman of the seminar.

Riley proposed that consideration be given to developing separate water systems in households — one for potable water and one for non-potable water. He suggested that non-potable water could be re-cycled, providing considerable conservation.

Determine the Demand

Schramm spelled out the results of a questionnaire sent to farmers to determine the demand for aqueduct water for agricultural purposes.

Flinn said that Mojave is seeking more supplemental water than under the community's original request.

He said that a new expanded golf course and housing development — being pushed by a Japanese firm — could substantially increase water needs in the area. He said three 18-hole golf courses are proposed plus condominiums.

Morning Session

During the morning session and almost without exception, speakers set the tone of the seminar — water level in Antelope Valley is dropping annually and supplemental water is the only answer if Antelope Valley's projected growth is to become a reality.

The speakers were introduced by Ed Schramm, chairman of the AVOBT Water and Agriculture Committee.

Bob Elland, deputy director of the State Department of Water Resources in Sacramento, emphasized that supplemental water is available — the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency having contracted for 138,000 acre feet per year, but, to date, the delivery has only been 73 acre feet.

AVEK Contract

The AVEK contract with the state was negotiated and signed in 1962, Elland said, and though there's only been the 73 acre feet of delivery locally since then, cost to district taxpayers has already

generally speaking the Lancaster-Palmdale area is "good," though the same couldn't be said of the Boron-No. Edwards locale, where he described the quality as "poor."

In his closing remarks, Davis urged those present to give strong consideration to approving the \$25,000,000 "clean water" bond election in June.

Historical Data

The talk by Ken Putnam, representing the Los Angeles County Waterworks District, featured historical data about the Valley.

He prefaced his statements with the information there's 10 county waterworks districts in North Los Angeles County, eight in what's considered the Antelope Valley ground basin area.

The eight, he said, service about half of the 83,000 population of Antelope Valley.

Historically, Putnam said the first well in Lancaster was drilled in 1883 at Lancaster Blvd. and Sierra Hwy.

The county first became involved in the water business in Lancaster in 1921, the initial well on Cedar, just north of Lancaster Blvd, former site of the water tower, a long time Lancaster landmark.

Two New Wells

Putnam disclosed the county currently is in the process of drilling two new wells in Lancaster and a third contemplated within the near future.

In passing, Putnam said it wasn't too many years ago cost of drilling a water well was only \$20,000 but the figure today has ballooned to \$45,000.

The water level in the Lancaster area is declining between six and seven feet a year and Putnam said it's incumbent that supplemental water be obtained if the Antelope Valley population of 203,000 is to be obtained by 1990, as projected.

Other morning program speakers were William Hardt, US Geological Survey office in Garden Grove; Frank Sherrill, Palmdale Water District; Willis Young, Littlerock Irrigation District; Dean Hayes,

(Continued from Page 1)

Sherrill traced the history of the Palmdale Water District, formed in 1918, which today has 14 wells. In addition, the district has contracted with the state for 17,300 acre feet per year, enough to service three times the current number of customers.

The Littlerock Creek Water District was formed in 1922, Young said, the Littlerock Dam constructed in 1924.

His district also has a contract with the state for supplemental water, Young reported. Cost to the district last year was \$12.80 per acre foot, and sold at \$13.50 an acre foot to customers.

The Littlerock district has eight wells and in comparison, Young reported the "quality of the state supplemental water is just a bit better and also somewhat cheaper," compared to well water.

Formed in 1954

Quartz Hill's Risolo informed the assemblage his district was formed in 1954, only 350 customers then, but expanded to 1600 at the current time.

Four wells serve the district, but the water level is dropping seven to eight feet a year, and another well is planned, said Risolo.

He summed up the overall attitude of those present with the comment:

"It's pitiful to see the water flow by in the aqueduct, water which we pay for but don't receive because of a lack of a delivery system.

"Supplemental water would be the answer."

The morning's concluding speaker was Wilbanks representing the Mojave Utilities District.

Sixteen wells currently supply the entire Edwards Air Force base operations with a capacity of 12,800 yearly acre feet but only 5000 acre feet presently being utilized. And Wilbanks said he didn't foresee any change in the production rate for at least the next five or six years, if then.

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Chambers don't have realty maps

Lancaster Chamber of Commerce Executive Vice President, Bob Keenan, and Palmdale Chamber of Commerce Consultant, Russ O'Connor, today released a joint announcement concerning the previous news item in regard to Murray Howard maps being available in the Chamber offices.

"The maps are not available at either the Lancaster or Palmdale Chamber of Commerce; nor have the two Chambers been contacted by the realty company. Both Chambers' policy, which coincides with all Chambers, is that due to the fact that many of our members are competitors in the same business, Chamber ethics dictate that it is unfair to promote the services or products of one member over his competitor. This would include maps that are produced by and advertising one specific Realtor member of the Chamber."

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AVEK Contract

The AVEK contract with the state was negotiated and signed in 1962, Eiland said, and though there's only been the 73 acre feet of delivery locally since then, cost to district taxpayers has already exceeded \$10 million.

"You're paying for availability, not delivery," Eiland reported, and noted AVEK's tax share this year would approximate \$2 1/2 million.

Overall, 31 districts (including AVEK) have contracted for the Feather River water "and it's all been contracted for, or sold," the water resources director stated.

He also reported AVEK is not the only district which has contracted for water but received no delivery or only a minimum amount, including Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

Another speaker was Bill Davis of Bishop who outlined the Lahontan District Water Quality Control Board, which he represented.

Mainly, his agency is engaged in regulatory powers protecting the quality of the water, Antelope Valley a portion of the district, though he conceded Antelope Valley wasn't represented on the board.

As to quality of local water,

The county first became involved in the water business in Lancaster in 1921, the initial well on Cedar, just north of Lancaster Blvd, former site of the water tower, a long time Lancaster landmark.

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Jack P. Gilroy graveside rites

Graveside services were conducted for Jack P. Gilroy, 70, Monday, Jan. 28, in Valhalla Cemetery, Glendale.

A resident of the Antelope Valley for 10 years, Mr. Gilroy had been employed as a maintenance man prior to his retirement after moving to the Valley from Idaho where he had been employed by a lumber company.

He was a veteran of World War II, born Jan. 15, 1904. He married the former Thelma Clestad during Aug. 1949, in Idaho. He died Jan. 24 while a patient at a Veteran's hospital.

Mr. Gilroy's only known survivor is his widow, Mrs. Thelma Gilroy of the Palmdale family home.

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Mary Lou Leavell graveside rites

Graveside services for Mary Lou Leavell, 87, will be conducted at 10:20 a.m. today (Thursday, Jan. 31) at Forest Lawn in Glendale. Slumber Room visitations may be made after 9 a.m. in the Mortuary.

A former resident of Palmdale, Mrs. Leavell was born Jan. 3, 1887, in Hagerville, Ark., and moved to Los Angeles in 1941 where she was employed as a clerk for Broadway Stores until her retirement.

She was preceded in death by her husband, A. Harley Leavell, who died during 1944. Mrs. Leavell died Jan. 28 at the Seventh-day Adventist Home, Ventura Estates, Newberry Park, where she was a resident.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Mrs. Mary Marie and Anthony B. Danley; two grandchildren, Michael A. Danley and Mrs. Sharon Carpenter, all of Palmdale; a sister, Mrs. Ida Hughes of Russellville, Ark., and two great-grandchildren, also of Palmdale.

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