

Overdraft of 71,000 acre feet each year reported by Teerink

Antelope Valley's ground water overdraft is presently occurring at the rate of 71,000 acre feet per year and is expected to double within the next 20 years without imported water.

That was the statement made Tuesday noon by John R. Teerink, director, State Department of Water Resources, who was the guest speaker at a special meeting held by the Antelope Valley Board of Trade at the Ramada Inn.

Teerink pointed out that the entire state entitlement to AVEK is 138,000 acre feet per year. Within the next two decades, the overdraft would exceed the entitlement, he said.

Presiding at the meeting was Ed Schramm, chairman of the AV Board of Trade agricultural and water committee.

John Alesso, Westside

rancher, told the crowd of about 70 persons that the Antelope Valley has two choices, either to let about 90 per cent of the agricultural land dry up or to utilize supplemental water from the aqueduct to retain the present farms.

When Alesso asked for a show of hands of any farmers (there were more than a dozen in the room) who had experienced a rising water table, no one raised his hand.

AVEK Director

William Ralston, newest director on the Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency, said "There is no question there is a need" for supplemental water.

He said that if the voters do not vote in the \$71 million water bond issue on June 4 any subsequent attempt to build a distribution system will be significantly more expensive because of inflationary factors.

Teerink was introduced by Ken Hall, who worked with Teerink on several projects in Sacramento. Hall is currently seeking the 34th Assembly District seat.

Speaking briefly from the audience was William Orchard, a director on the Mojave Water District board, who is also seeking the 34th Assembly seat.

Teerink showed a film on the State Water Project during his talk.

\$10 Million

He said that through 1973, AVEK taxpayers have paid the State more than \$10 million for a water supply from the state project.

Payments in 1974 will exceed \$2 million and will continue in increasing amounts for many years to come.

AVEK will continue to pay regardless of whether the agency takes delivery of another acre foot of water.

"The longer you delay (building a water distribution system), the more expensive it's going to be," Teerink said.

Al Skelton, president of AVEK, asked Teerink to comment on proposals expressed by AVEK opponents that the agency should be dissolved.

Teerink pointed out that the agency has a signed contract with the state.

"In no way can that contract be abrogated," Teerink said.

Murder suspect bound over to Superior Court

Thirty-six-year-old John Lee Culver of Littlerock has been bound over to Van Nuys Superior Court to face murder charges following his preliminary hearing held Monday in the Antelope Municipal Court.

Culver is accused of shooting to death Gene Arlo Brewer, 35, Wagon Wheel Bar bartender at the 8549 E. Pearblossom Hwy, Littlerock establishment May 3.

Culver, who lives at 9255 E. Ave. S, surrendered to AV Sheriff's Station officials three days after the fatal shooting. He had been sought by local law enforcement officials in connection with Brewer's death.

Culver was represented at the preliminary hearing by Los Angeles attorney Lewis Notrica, Deputy District Attorney—Jan Grant representing the prosecution.

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