

Dam Safety To Be Assured: 10-1-47

Water Tests For Matilija Planned

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vealed that the Donald R. Warren company, dam engineers, had not planned and didn't intend to conduct either core hole drilling nor water seepage tests. The rest of the recommendations made by Dr. Berkey after his investigation for the county are being followed, however, Stump and Stiver informed the board.

Detailing his plans for taking cores and for conducting the seepage experiment, Dr. Bailey informed the board that if the core tests prove satisfactory erection of an expensive upstream dam apron will not be necessary. A grout curtain can suffice if the grout is properly holding, he said.

If the core drilling shows the grout is holding but that more is needed, more grout can be added, Dr. Bailey reported. He said he had been informed that dam workers now are finding that they can get the earth formation to take grout upstream. This, he said, is an encouraging sign.

After the decisions to make the tests and to set up the necessary funds for them had been made, S. V. Prichard, legal consultant called in by the county, praised the supervisors' actions. He told the board that he and District Attorney M. Arthur Waite yesterday had had a telephone conversation with Dr. Berkey and that Dr. Berkey strongly favored the tests and highly recommended Dr. Bailey to make the tests.

BLAMES WARREN

Dr. Berkey also agreed to rely on the findings made by Dr. Bailey in the core and seepage tests, Prichard told the board. Prichard said the supervisors, in calling for the tests, are paving the way to clear up the dispute between the Warren company and Dr. Berkey as to whether core holes and seepage tests will give additional data on the safety of the dam.

(Dr. Berkey, by letter, recently told the board that the dam would fail if further treatment of seepage is not made. He placed blame for Matilija's troubles directly on Warren and criticized him for not heeding suggestions on how to protect the dam's safety.)

Prichard told the board that the supervisors' action in calling for the tests will show the public that the supervisors, themselves, are taking all precautions for having a safe dam and a dam that will be adequate for service.

Dam Safety Test Funds Approved

TO provide assurance that all precautionary steps are to be taken to insure the safety of Matilija dam and to reassure the public that the dam will be adequate, county flood control district supervisors have approved use of zone one funds for two tests.

The money will be used for core drills and to make water tests for seepage around the dam. The work will be done by Dr. Tom Bailey, local geologist who will conduct the tests on a fee basis of \$75 per day.

Supervisors approved the testing program and the funds to conduct it after the plan had been recommended yesterday afternoon by Neil Stiver, zone one manager. Stiver told the board that places for putting in the core holes, approximately 10 of them, have been selected. The core holes will be drilled through the present grout curtain under the dam.

TRIPLE PURPOSE

The cores will serve a triple purpose, both Stiver and Dr. Bailey told the board. They will give samples of the bed rock on which the dam rests, strength of which has been questioned by Dr. Charles P. Berkey, consultant called in this spring by the county. They also will show how well the grout so far put into the earth formations is holding, and they will provide deep holes for further grouting.

The seepage test will be made by putting harmless dye into a pool of water upstream of the dam. The colored water then will be traced to see whether or not the water is seeping under the dam. This test was recommended by Dr. Bailey after some seepage was found in the downstream area when earth was being excavated to make way for the dam's apron.

BERKEY RECOMMENDATION

It was Dr. Berkey who strongly recommended that a core drilling program be put into effect. Investigation by Stiver and Leonard Stump, principal engineer in the county surveyor's office, re-

(See WATER page 2)

Completion Of Dam Near

10-7-47

Payment of \$99,545.48 to the construction firm of Atkinson Kier Bressi and Bevanda was authorized today by the Ventura County Flood Control board as the total value of work to date on Matilija dam rose to \$1,750,795 and the project rapidly neared completion.

The construction company previously has been paid \$1,512,777.8 for work completed.

NEAR COMPLETION

John Hallock, representing the Warren Engineering company, said that construction work was drawing into the final stages with the right abutment completed and only a few more pours necessary to complete the left abutment and the arch proper. Considerable work remains in completing the control house and superstructure, he said. Only a few pours remain in the apron.

Hallock reported also that grouting is underway with very favorable results thus far. A grout curtain is being forced into holes bored in the floor of the canyon, this curtain to protect against seepage and undercutting. "Grouting has been spotty so far," Hallock told the board. "Some holes have taken a large amount of grout (a mix of cement and water) while others have taken hardly any. The fact that some of these holes are taking large quantities of grout indicates that fractures are being filled," he said.

TEST PLANNED

As yet, Hallock added, there has been no indication that grout is forcing its way to the surface in other areas although being forced into the holes under pressure. When this curtain has been completed across the floor of the canyon, a test is to be undertaken with dye-colored water to see if there is seepage possible beneath the dam.

The early portion of the meeting today was taken up by the reading of letters from the state department of public works which granted an extension of time for answering protests filed with the flood control board by water users in the stream below the dam. According to Deputy District Attorney Julien Hathaway, the original answers to protests sent to Joseph P. Levy and the Ojai Mutual Water company contained no indication that the county planned to make use of its dam at Matilija to store water.

This oversight was corrected in the new answers and it is explained that the county flood control board plans to store storm and runoff waters, plus the amount of the usual stream flow that it would be entitled to.

The Ventura (Calif.) Co

SANTA CLARA DISTRICT SEEKS PERMITS TO DIVERT WATER

10-9-47

SACRAMENTO. —(WNS)— The Santa Clara Water Conservation district filed four applications for water diversion in Ventura county during September, Edward N. Hyatt, chief of the state division of water resources, announced today. The district is located in Santa Paula.

The applications were as follows:

For 1100 C.F.S. and 2,530,000 acre feet from Sespe creek, Santa Paula creek, Piru creek and the Santa Clara river, for municipal

purposes in Oxnard, Santa Paula and Fillmore.

For the same amount of water from the same streams for domestic purposes in Oxnard and Santa Paula.

For the same amount of water from the same streams for irrigation of entire district.

For the same amount of water from the same streams, for industrial purposes.

The division also received an application from Dr. Charles Raymond Adams, Studio city, for .04 C.S.F. from Frazier mine spring, tributary to Lockwood creek for domestic and irrigation of 40 acres, cost \$2,000.

Go-Ahead Signal On Dam Ordered

WITH all the powers-that-be agreed that the Matilija dam can be completed to its originally contemplated height, the go-ahead signal has been given for resumption of concrete pouring on the arch-type construction. Pouring is expected to start again shortly, probably this week.

The approval for concrete pouring resumption on the trouble-laden dam was given Saturday following a day-long conference of state officials with representatives of the Ventura county flood control district, the Donald R. Warren company, project engineers, contractors Atkinson Kier Bressi and Bevanda and the consultants of the various organizations.

The state dam consultant board members first toured and inspected the dam site and the partially built dam with officials of other organizations, held a general group discussion and then met by themselves to reach conclusions. These conclusions later were given out to the entire group. They covered the technical phases for handling the difficult sections on the dam—around M and N blocks on the left abutment. It was at N block that seamy material, unfit for foundation, was found in April. Since that time, extra excavation to remove the flawed earth has been under way. The state ordered concrete pouring stopped until the excavation was done.

Pouring of block O, which will be adjacent to N, is expected to start just as soon as the contractors can reassemble the equipment and men needed. The contractors now are readying work for the resumption of pouring. Later, the remainder of N block will be filled in.

The state, for its position, does not take cognizance of the cost of the work required; it passes on the safety of the structure. Therefore, the cost to do the work outlined by the state will be a matter between the district and its design (Warren) engineer.

At Saturday's meeting were Edward Hyatt, chief of the state division of water resources; William Holmes, superintendent of dams, Wayne Perkins and John Spillman, members of the state consultant board, and their consultants, Chester Marliave, geologist, and F. C. Hermann, construction engineer; Donald Warren, his son, Carl Nelson, John Hallock, Howard Taylor, Donald R. Warren company officials, and their geology consultant, Dr. John Buwalda; Ryan, representing the flood control district, and the district's geology consultant, Dr. Charles Berkey of Columbia university. John Kier, projects manager for the contractors was present at the final meeting when the conclusions were presented.

Dr. Berkey, called from the east to serve as the district's consultant, today was to give a report on his findings to the supervisors of the district and zone one advisory board members at the courthouse following a luncheon at the Leewood hotel.

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EXACT DATE UNKNOWN