

County joins water districts for aqueduct project

By BILL ROGERS
Los Angeles Times

SAN BERNARDINO — The county board of supervisors on Monday agreed to join the Morongo Basin water district in a project aimed at bringing Northern California water into the area by way of a pipeline from the California Aqueduct in Hesperia.

The supervisors approved an agreement under which the county would be a partner in the proposed Mojave Joint Venture water authority with the Hi-Desert Water District at Yucca Valley, the Joshua Basin Water District at Primm and the Mojave Water Agency.

The county's delegate to the authority has been special assistant engineer Ed Cameron, representing two county-governed improvement zones providing wa-

ter service in the Landers and Pioneerwater areas. The Big Horn Mountain Water Agency is reported to be the only water district declining to date to join the authority.

Supervisor John Joyner said the project deserves high priority because of the area's rapid growth.

Preliminary estimates are that it would cost between \$38 million and \$60 million to install a pipeline to convey imported water to the Morongo Basin.

The Mojave Water Agency, which has contracted for Northern California water, has tentatively allotted 7,200 acre-feet of water annually to the area, compared with its current overdraft of about 3,500 acre-feet in the Morongo Basin, according to Ernest Thompson, general manager of the Hi-Desert Water District.

Cameron said the authority board will explore various means of bond financing to build the pipeline. Alternatives include property assessments and increased water service charges.

The pipeline would not provide water for the Twentynine Palms area, which is outside of MWA boundaries.

In other actions Monday, the supervisors:

- Approved a new name, Fort Firmin Road, for the new and improved 14.5-mile stretch of highway from the Meridian Road-Interstate 15 Junction to the east end of Fort Irwin National Training Center.
- County Transportation Director Michael Walker said the new name will better identify the highway and distinguish it from its Irwin Road branch directly into Barstow.
- Called for bids on a project to complete interior construction of courtroom space reserved for Barstow's second Superior Court judge, expected to be appointed this spring by the governor.
- The work in the county's court building benefits estimated to cost about \$600,000, not including the approximately \$200,000 to be spent on furnishings and equipping.
- The work is authorized by a measure passed last month by the state Legislature more than two years ago, but the county did not provide financing until this year.
- Authorized the county Planning Office to purchase eight parcels of land, totaling about eight square-mile sections around Valley Airport to implement general plan provisions authorizing a new airport.
- A planning staff spokesman said one of the changes, expected to be ready for state hearing by this summer, would substitute industrial and commercial zoning where properties are now limited to low-density residential development.

Approved leveling 2,500 square feet of office space for \$108.7 million in the Spring Valley Lake shopping center for the County Service Area 94 water and sewer system headquarters serving the community. The lease can be extended four more years. A special districts spokesman said CSEA has adequate space at its present location in the Spring Valley Lake Association office.

Approved a three-county alliance serving three homesites instead of five on 1.5 acres at the nucleus of Paradise Way and Matly Boulevard, northeast of Big Bear City Airport, after the property owner said CSEA had no adequate space at its present location in the Spring Valley Lake Association office.

A district previously approved by the subdivision because the property is under an airport takeoff pattern.

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Unification try expected from board

APPLE VALLEY — Apple Valley Elementary School District trustees are expected to give their official sanction to another try at unification when they meet today.

Although the issue was discussed at the last regular meeting and a consensus of approval was given, no action was taken.

However, a resolution asking the County Community School District Organization for a new unification study is on the agenda for the 4:30 p.m. meeting today at the district office.

Last November, a measure that would have created kindergarten through 12th-grade unified districts in Apple Valley and Hesperia was defeated by 981 votes.

The proposal received strong opposition from the Victorville and Lucerne Valley residents.

However, since then Lucerne Valley has decided to try for a unified district of its own.

Proponents of unification this time are seeking to have the three districts divided into three separate ballot measures with only voters living in the respective elementary school districts casting ballots for their own community's proposal.

School trustees plan meeting in cafeteria

VICTORVILLE — Victor Valley Union High School District trustees meet at 8 p.m. today in the Victor Valley High School cafeteria, 16600 Mojave Drive.

The board is to meet in the second in two weeks for the board, which has been criticized for giving up the school district to the Victor Valley High School district office.

Trustees have a capacity of about 200 persons and more than 250 persons have turned out for board meetings since a teachers strike began Dec. 6.

Two weeks ago, the board met to hear charges by the State Education Officers, Board of Examiners, and the State Education Officers' Association, but the crowd still overflowed outside.

The board, down to four members with the resignation of President Patricia Callaway, expects to appoint a new board member by late March. If the board fails to appoint a replacement by that time, the responsibility goes to the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools.

Bulletin board

Film festival

VICTORVILLE — An Alfred Hitchcock film festival featuring three of the producer-director's vintage films has been scheduled for the Performing Arts Center at Victorville Valley.

"Notorious," starring Cary Grant and Ingrid Bergman, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. All showings will be free.

"Spellbound," starring Gregory Peck and Ingrid Bergman, is scheduled for Feb. 20.

The film festival will be the recently released "Rear Window," starring James Stewart and Grace Kelly, which will be screened on Feb. 27.

This film has not been seen on television and was recently released to theaters. "Rear Window" is critically acclaimed as one of

Hitchcock's finest.

All the films are open to the public and are free. The festival is provided as part of the college's community service outreach program.

Chamber women

APPLE VALLEY — A luncheon membership meeting of the Women's Division of the Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce will begin at 1:30 p.m. lunch at a meeting at noon, Feb. 12 in the Apple Valley Inn.

Other activities being planned include a membership card drawing and a fashion show by Other Dimensions.

For reservations call Ann, 619-

347-2793 or the Inn.

Contract proposal

ADELANTO — The Adelanto Elementary School District board is expected to receive a proposal from the City of Adelanto for a contract, says the city's public works director, Tom DeMott.

The board meets at 8:30 p.m. at the district offices, 1124 E. Oak Road.

Council meets

ADELANTO — The City Council meets Feb. 12 to discuss the

use of its community development fund, a grant from the State.

The council meets at 7 p.m. in the Richardson Park complex, 11808 Cortes Road.

School rental

PHELAN — Snowline Joint Unified School District trustees will meet at 8:30 p.m. at the school offices, 1124 E. Oak Road, to discuss the rental of additional facilities.

The session is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Serrano High School cafeteria.

The church has been using the

space reserved for Barstow's second Superior Court judge, expected to be appointed this spring by the governor.

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One dead, 3 injured Inland freeway accident

BARSTOW — Three people still were hospitalized Monday in injuries sustained in an accident on Interstate 15 that killed a Bloomington man, hospital spokesman said.

Dead at the scene was Joseph White Steins, 24, California Highway Patrol Officer John Walters said.

Walters said the driver of the car — David Jay Zink, 26, also of Bloomington — was booked for investigation of driving under the influence of alcohol and vehicular manslaughter.

Zink, who sustained a broken jaw, head injuries and abrasions on his face, drove toward the exit to Barstow Community Hospital and later transferred to San Bernardino County Medical Center. A spokesman Monday said Zink was reported in satisfactory condition.

Also injured were Scott David Zink, 28, also of Bloomington, and Bryan C. Chammes, 21, of

Plattswood, Neb.

The two were treated at Barstow Community Hospital. Walters transferred to county Medical Center, where he was reported in satisfactory condition Monday, and Chammes transferred to Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Fontana, where he was listed in serious condition.

The accident occurred on I-15, about 7 miles south of Basim Road, Waters said.

He said Zink was southbound at estimated speeds of 70-80 mph when his car drifted toward the left side.

Zink apparently overreacted when he failed to negotiate the curve, Walters said, causing the car to go off the road on the right.

The car overturned, landing near a tree, Steins and Chammes were all thrown from the vehicle.

Inland Exquire

Desert/Mountain Edition

Man says not guilty in killings

VICTORVILLE — Earl Leo Wyman, accused of slaying two Lucerne Valley residents, entered plea of guilty to death by a jury Monday before county Municipal Court.

In addition to the murder counts, Wyman, 22, of Lucerne Valley was accused of two counts of using a firearm in the commission of a crime, and of having the intent to kill. He denied all charges.

Judge Carol Koppel dismissed two other misdemeanor counts against Wyman — expiration of vehicle registration and having an open container in a vehicle — because of the felony charges.

Koppel ordered Wyman back to court on Wednesday because there was a change in his attorney, county public defender John Crochly, will no longer be able to represent him. A new attorney was hired and the trial was set for Feb. 14.

Koppel named Stan Hedge to represent Wyman if it is ruled on Wednesday that Crochly is no longer Wyman's attorney.

Wyman is charged with robbing and kidnapping Joseph and Blossom Gaines, both 57, at the Gaines' residence Jan. 17.

Pay

(Continued from B-1)

contention throughout negotiations, has become a lesser issue since the district proposed establishment of procedures for arbitration in personnel disputes.

Crochly said, however, the association prefers having an outside arbitrator to decide on personnel issues, rather than relying on the judgment of untrained community residents who would serve on the advisory panel.

Also at issue are health and welfare benefits and a provision that could require teachers to spend 42 hours per year — outside regular school hours — in staff meetings, open house and other school activities and field trips.

Crochly said the association believes the number of hours is excessive.

Bail is reduced for Coon

VICTORVILLE — The bail of a Hesperia man accused of arson of school building was reduced Monday to \$50,000 in county Municipal Court here.

Judge Tom Spivey reduced the bail of Horace E. Coon, 46, after school attorney William Yacobi, 21, argued successfully that the \$100,000 bail was causing an undue hardship on the defendant.

Yacobi said that all of Coon's property had been put into trust to cover the bail. By cutting the bail in half, Coon would be able to remove the liens on his assets.

Spivey also reduced one count of vandalism from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Coon, a former sheriff's reserve deputy, is accused of setting

fire to the Apple Valley home of Marsha "Marti" Mason, 30, on Oct. 19 last year.

The case proceedings have been delayed because of an appeal in the 4th District Court of Appeal in San Bernardino.

Deputy District Attorney Jules Fleuret filed an affidavit against Municipal Court Judge Carol Koppel after Koppel ruled on a motion for trial motions in the case last December.

Superior Court Judge Joseph Katz on Jan. 31 ordered Koppel to vacate the rulings. Koppel's attorney then filed an appeal.

Currently, all motions regarding the case are set for court calendar. Fleuret said Monday he planned to do as all he could to get the case moving again.

He is survived by his wife, Kathryn; four daughters, Nadine Travers of Oregon, Janet Tidwell of Colton, Arlene Flich of Artoia and Jeanne Alberts Solt of Long Beach; a brother, Robert, of Artoia; a sister, Dorothy Brown, of Oregon; 11 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

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