

1-14-47

New Revised Figures For Casitas Dam Submitted To Supervisors

1/12/47

Revised costs on Casitas dam—\$540,791 less than estimated costs—today were submitted by letter to the supervisors of the county flood control district by Consulting Engineer Donald R. Warren.

Warren's new figure lists total cost of the dam project at \$1,524,149, as compared with a previous estimate of \$2,064,940. He lists cost of the dam at \$1,151,535, as against an earlier figure of \$1,604,850, cost of relocation of the west highway at \$137,379—it previously was \$161,690—and cost of the relocation of the east highway at \$235,235 instead of the previous \$298,400.

THE NEW costs on the conduit system—\$924,024—also are lower than the preliminary estimate—\$996,425. Warren has submitted the complete design plans for the dam, proposed as the second of the two-dam projects for zone one of the flood control district, to County Surveyor Robert Ryan. Matilija dam, first of the projects, is part-way through construction.

WARREN also sent to the supervisors a copy of a letter forwarded to Atkinson Kier Bressi

and Bevanda, Matilija contractors, who, with the consulting engineer, have been exchanging heated public letters on progress of Matilija. In his latest letter, Warren, who had given the contractors a verbal spanking about progress of the work, agreed that "the public exchange of letters is a poor method of settling any engineering or factual controversy." He also stated that recent progress on work of the dam site was encouraging.

SUPERVISORS learned that their application for funds under the county-city act for relocation of Casitas pass road, part of the dam project, could not be acceptable as a district project unless alleviation of unemployment was shown. They were informed, however, that such funds might possibly be obtained if the project was sponsored by the county rather than the district. Ryan is to consult Thursday in Los Angeles with an official from the state department of finance to see what solution can be reached.

Matilija dam property of Mr. and Mrs. Claude E. Castle was purchased for \$150

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WATER USE INCREASING RAPIDLY

VENTURA city is using water at a rapidly increasing rate. This fact is impressed upon us by a letter received today from Donald R. Warren, consulting engineer for the county flood control district. Mr. Warren's letter says:

We read with interest the article in your paper of December 31, 1946, in which you outlined the use of water by the City of Ventura in 1946. With this and the data in our previous investigation, we learned that the city of Ventura had used 5,142 acre feet of water in 1946, and that their increase was 370 acre feet over 1945. If the trend for the six years from 1940 to 1946 continues, Ventura will use 6,000 acre feet of water in 1957.

The data used for the Zone 1 report was for the years prior to 1940, so that the peak condition of the war years would not be an undue influence in the future prediction. However, the bulge in population and in water use during the war has not receded. The population increase in the City of Ventura since 1940 is 18½ percent, and the increase in the water use is 17 percent.

The rate of increase in water use of the city prior to 1940 was 67 acre feet per year. The average rate of increase since 1940 has been 163 acre feet.

In light of these figures cited, it is perfectly obvious that we did not get busy, through the zone 1 development, a bit too early. By the time the Matilija and Casitas dams are completed and ready to deliver their supply, the area to be served will undoubtedly require all the water that can be normally produced.