AVEK Officials Addressed Mojave C of C Thursday

Two top Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) officials, manager Wally Spinarski and Director Dan Cooper, told Mojave Chamber of Commerce members Thursday that about one-third of the $49 million the agency is seeking through next month’s bond election would be spent in Kern County.

The AVEK bond issue, if passed by valley-wide voters Feb. 16, would finance a water distribution system to feed smaller water districts from Leona Valley to Boron.

About $16 million would be used to construct feeder and reservoir systems for Kern County communities such as Mojave, Rosamond, Boron and eventually California City, if the agency reannexes that area. California City withdrew from AVEK several years ago, but is now seeking to rejoin the agency.

If reannexation is approved by directors, it wouldn’t be in time for California City to take part in the election, however.

Spinarski said passage of the bond issue is necessary for smaller eastern Kern communities to receive the benefits of the aqueduct because the smaller water districts cannot afford the expense of bringing supplemental water into their areas alone.

The purpose of the agency, he said, was to allow smaller communities throughout the valley to have supplemental water by formation of a body that could handle such a large undertaking.

The supplemental water is needed, both AVEK officials said, due to declining water tables brought on by increased usage.

In answer to a question by Dick Poole, they said that while the aqueduct water would not be soft, it wouldn’t be any harder than water presently pumped from most areas of the valley.

Treatment in the seven plants planned in the first construction phases would remove all suspended particles and contamination, but would not soften or chlorinate the water.

In other chamber news, President Helen White announced that Vern Reichard is slated to be at next week’s meeting of directors and members to explain the personnel situation within the county’s sanitation department.

Reichard is director, Environmental Health Division, Kern County Health Department, and was requested to speak to the chamber following word from county sources that the number of sanitarians serving the eastern Kern County area was being cut back.

College Council Approves Chicano Student Group

The Inter-Club Council of students at AV College recently approved the Chicano Students’ Association (CSA) as an official campus club, with membership open to all Antelope Valley College students.

At the first official meeting, Rubin Morando, temporary CSA spokesman observed about 200 Mexican-American students attend the college, and orientation will be geared primarily toward Americans of Mexican descent.

The non-sectarian club’s basic intent is to enhance the image of Mexican-Americans in the Valley, Morando said.

Specific club goals discussed by members included volunteering help to the recently initiated Project Outreach, a federally-funded program to aid minority peoples in attaining basic employment skills and up-grading educational levels for greater job opportunity.

Also discussed was maintaining chicano cultural activities in the ethnic culture center at the college.

Ida A. Morgan Services Held

Private funeral services for Ida A. Morgan, 70, were conducted Friday, Feb. 5, under