Water table declining costs rising, BOT told

Water resources in Antelope Valley are rapidly declining and cost of extracting it from the ground is increasing.

That was the crux of a talk by Kenneth Putnam when he addressed the Antelope Valley Board of Trade Tuesday at the Sand Sailer. For the last three years, he’s been the Division Engineer, Waterworks and Utilities Division, for the Los Angeles County Engineer.

At the outset, Putnam noted there are only 18 waterworks districts located in the entire Los Angeles County and nine, or half, are in Antelope Valley. Largest is Lancaster, District No. 4, which has been in operation since 1917.

Seven Feet Per Year

The water in the Lancaster area has been dropping at a rate of about seven feet a year for the last 10 years, Putnam reported, and we’re continuing to drill wells, with two new ones to be drilled in the next year.

“We lose a well every two years.”

Putnam pointed out that while the level continues to drop, water usage at the same time is climbing, due to increased population.

For an example, Putnam told the group one day in July this year, 25,000,000 gallons were pumped for Lancaster for improvements and just meeting the increased demands for water.

Continuing, Putnam said “there’s no answer to the question ‘when will we run out of water’,” in fact he wouldn’t hazard a guess.

And while the County Waterworks District officials can’t become involved in politics, can only state the facts, Putnam is hopeful that Valley voters will approve “Proposition W” in the November election, which would provide for supplemental water for this area.

Putnam reported the county has already contracted to purchase at wholesale prices, the first 8,000 to 20,000 acre feet of Feather River water delivered to AVEK.

Committee Member

In the absence of AVBOT Water Committee Chairman Jerry Bigalk, Putnam was introduced by committee member Bob Klefe.

During the business meeting conducted by President Virgil Weaver, directors agreed to postpone action on the 1972 budget until next meeting, Oct. 17. The preliminary budget calls for expenditures and income of $89,625.

TV's Ed Asner to speak at 'Beaars' Banquet'

CATHY NELSON

Cathy is the daughter of Mark and Catherine Carey, and is a student at Antelope Community College. Cathy is a member of the TV program, "Happy Days." She was born in Antelope, Calif., and has been active in student government at the college. Cathy is also a member of the Antelope Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Antelope Valley Jaycees. She is currently working at the Antelope Valley Hospital.

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He now realizes what can be done: the 687 issue.

He said that the should be simplified and that the bond issue should be issued.

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