Water plan may spell out dawn of a new day

A new, significantly different water system plan is currently being examined by the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency.

The plan has been labeled Domestic-Agriculture Water Network (DAWN) and, indeed, it may spell out the dawn of a new day for Antelope Valley's frustrating water picture.

The AVEK board is currently considering when it should hold its next bond election. The election can be held in conjunction with the June 4 primary or in conjunction with the general election next November.

Two previous bond elections failed to win the necessary two-thirds vote, but a change in the law permitting a simple majority vote should make it possible to gain passage the next time around.

The DAWN plan has been specifically tailored to make it feasible to deliver water to agricultural areas as well as the communities in the Greater Antelope Valley.

The first bond measure was set for $49 million in February, 1971, and it received a 52 per cent vote. The second election attempt was made for a bond issue of $58 million. It received a 55 per cent favorable vote. The price tag on the DAWN plan has been set at $71 million.

In the meantime, taxpayers in the AVEK agency continue to pay for water in the California Aqueduct that cannot be used because the agency has no distribution system.

It is a frustrating situation to say the least.

A number of Antelope Valley farmers have indicated that they are interested in obtaining supplemental water. The water table is dropping at an alarming rate throughout the Valley and the various water purveyors who have contracted with AVEK for supplemental water are anxious to "get on the line.

The new DAWN plan appears to be a feasible system that could meet many of the area's water needs. We urge that AVEK set an election for June so that construction on the new system can begin as soon as possible.

Time and water are a-wasting.

Sacramento Scene

Inflation ... the hidden tax

By RUS WALTON

Inflation is a tax. Sure it is! It's the most insidious tax of all because it is hidden — it saps your money while you sleep (as well as while you're awake). Look at it this way. Last year inflation was about what we would, if we had

through the wringer of deficit spending.

Then, those birds bawl about the result of their profligacy and use it to justify even more profligacy . . . and more taxes. Inflation is a tax on a tax.

Inflation is a tax on a tax. It is used to cover your

in fair market "value" is due to inflation and $12,700 is due to actual appreciation — because of supply and demand, the new school down the street, or whatever.

That inflation factor should be taken into account in valuing your property. And educ...
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