

Use Of Sewage Effluent To Solve West Basin Water Crisis Outlined

There is no incurable reason why sewage effluent cannot be used to solve the West Basin's critical water problem.

Conceding a popular, if groundless, prejudice against this idea, R. F. Goudey, chief sanitary engineer of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, has just completed the first detailed study of this oft-discussed reclamation possibility. His findings are embodied in an overall report prepared by Harold Conkling, top-ranking hydraulic engineer, for the West Basin Water Association.

An average of 150 million gallons of sewage effluent is being discharged daily into Santa Monica Bay. If rectified this waste would provide far more than foreseeable needs for water throughout the West Basin.

As Engineer Goudey views it the obstacles in the path of such a solution of the West Basin water problems are political rather than technical.

As an engineering fact sewage water is already being rectified in many parts of this country and abroad. In a 56-mile stretch of the Ruhr River in Germany, the water, used in 1921, similar waters, serving three and one-half millions of people, were put through three cycles of reuse. At Rockville Center, Long Island, sewage is spread into surface basins to replenish underground water supplies. A dozen other cases from Maryland to California are cited in the Goudey report.

In the matter of cost such water could be produced at \$12.63 per acre foot or, as Engineer Goudey says, "Less than 40% of the complete cost of Colorado River (Metropolitan) water."

"But," continues Goudey, in viewing the political possibilities, "it is not certain permission would be given by the City of Los Angeles to connect with the city sewer line. On that point, it might be at a cost that would largely nullify the savings in comparison with Colorado River water which would exist if the sewage could be obtained free of cost."

Because of these unknown factors and in spite of the bright possibilities of such a reclamation project, Engineer Goudey says, "In the absence of planning and although the West Basin is the logical place to use at least a part of the sewage because the sewage outfalls pass through it at each end in large volume, it is not possible to recommend its use."

Highlights in the Goudey report are:

1. The use of sewage water would raise the water-table in the West Basin and decrease costs of pumping.
2. The North Outfall Sewer is recommended over the L. A. County Sanitation District because its effluent contains less industrial waste matter.
3. Either source would easily supply 80,000 acre feet and more per year. (The West Basin is currently using 73,000 acre feet, more than twice the natural replenishment.)
4. Such treated waters could be used direct for agricultural and industrial purposes.
5. No new transmission lines

or reservoirs would be necessary.

6. Waters reclaimed as planned would be bacteriologically safe and minerally more desirable than any other imported water which might be available to the West Basin.

7. Some organized body or bodies would have to be given authority to keep toxic wastes out of sewage which is being rectified for human consumption.

An extended study of sewage possibilities as a solution for water shortages in this area has been long-awaited. Those interested in further details of the Goudey report may obtain them by getting in touch with the West Basin Water Association, 141 South Pacific ave., Redondo Beach; Carl Fossette, executive secretary.

State Sales Tax Cut-Back To Cities Proposed

A proposal that the state legislature lower the sales tax by 1 cent, with half a cent going to cities and half to counties for expense of local government, is being investigated by the California Supervisors association.

Many California cities have sales tax levies in effect and Torrance has considered one as a revenue measure.

The new state plan was discussed and tentatively recommended by the tax and legislative committees of the association, which, with other committees and directors of the body, concluded a two-day session in Sacramento recently.

The state sales tax, now 2½ cents, reverts to 2 cents July 1, 1947, unless the 1947 legislature, which convenes in January, does something about it.

If the legislature should adopt the proposal under consideration by the supervisors, the sales tax would be 4 cents.

Disabled Veterans Not Affected By Subsistence Cut

Disabled veterans enrolled in school or on-the-job training programs under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act are not affected by recent amendments to the GI Bill which prohibit the payment of subsistence allowances to students earning more than \$175 or \$200, L. C. Chapman, manager Los Angeles Regional office, announced recently.

Chapman pointed out that disabled veterans receive educational training under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act (Public Law 16), while other World War II veterans are trained under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act (GI Bill). The wage ceiling amendments apply only to the GI Bill, Chapman said.



DISCUSSES WATER . . . R. F. Goudey, sanitary engineer, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, who sums up possibilities of sewage treatment as means to abundant water for West Basin.

Tractors For Veterans Go On Sale Sept. 3

How to satisfy more than 5,000 tractor-seeking war veterans in this area was the War Assets Administration's problem today as it announced that 168

tractors will be on sale to veterans only, Tuesday, Sept. 3, at Fort Huachuca Naval Base near Oxnard, in the first of a series of farm machinery sales being held by WAA.

On the opening day of the sale only those certified for priority before May 1, 1946, will be admitted to the sale. Starting at 9 a. m., veterans with the earliest certification dates will be given first choice at the tractors, or cranes, compressors and scrapers, also on sale.

Vets certified before Sept. 1, 1946, will have Wednesday, Sept. 4, in which to purchase any remaining equipment, and all certified veterans will be eligible to buy on the last three days of the sale, Sept. 5, 6 and 9.

Los Angeles Elementary Cost \$133.28 A Pupil

Current expenditures of the Los Angeles city elementary school district averaged \$133.28 per pupil in average daily attendance in 1944-45, compared with \$129.19 per pupil for 1943-44. California Taxpayers' association said recently, making public its annual report on per capita expenditures of the larger elementary school districts in California. Data for 1944-45 are the latest available.

Expenditures by the district for teachers salaries averaged \$91.18 per pupil for 1944-45, compared with \$87.21 for 1943-44. Other current expenditures were \$42.10 for 1944-45 and \$41.98 for 1943-44. Average daily attendance was 143,680 for 1944-45 and 141,255 for 1943-44.

For both years covered by this study, state support of the elementary school districts of California was on the basis of \$66 per pupil in average daily attendance. For 1945-46, state support was increased to \$80 per pupil.

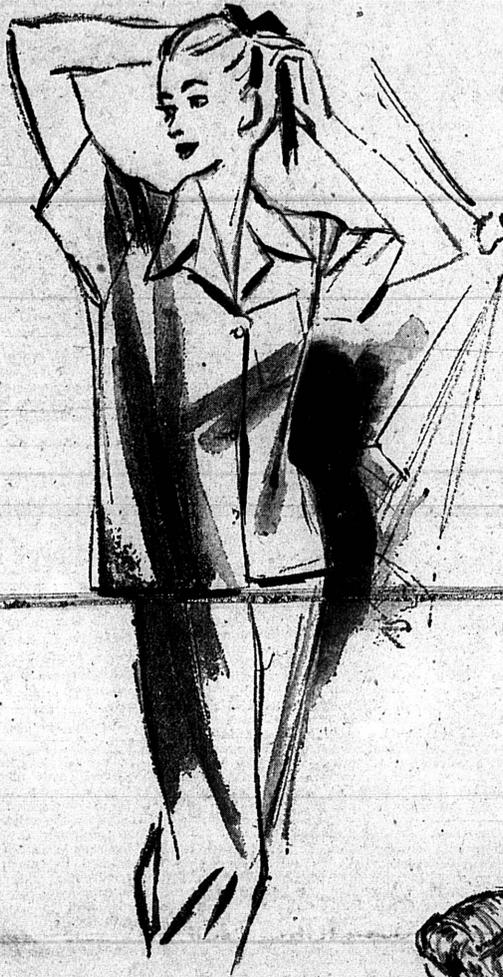
FOOD ITEMS FREE OF GOVERNMENT PRICE CONTROL

Twelve items—including black and white pepper—considered unimportant to the cost of living, are being removed from price controls, effective immediately the OPA announced Monday.

The complete list includes: Canned clam broth; canned sauerkraut with pork (when containing less than 20 percent of pork by weight); domestic sweet and sour chutney (a relish); imported and domestic ground and unground cinnamon; paprika; oleoresin; imported and domestic ground and unground black pepper; imported and domestic ground and unground white pepper; imported and domestic processed meat and fish sauces (except when containing more than 30 percent of tomato solids in the total dry solids); Chinese fortune tea cakes; imported and domestic canned plum pudding; malted milk tablets; dehydrated sugarcane fiber.

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