

Council Will Study Weed Abatement

Program to Control Growth of Deadly Plants Suggested

Councilmen were presented with the problem of this year's program of weed eradication at last night's meeting.

An excellent program for cleaning up weed grown fields in Torrance has been outlined by the city administrator's office. Cost of cleaning up the piles of dried tumbleweeds and wild grass in the fields would be relatively light, approximating some \$11 an acre.

Heavy costs, that caused such a furor in the city last year were caused by removal of trash and heavy remnants from old oilwell sites.

While the city is studying the problem of weed removal it might well take under consideration the control of wild castor bean trees, growing in huge clumps in various parts of the community.

Numerous complaints have been received concerning the unchecked growth of these plants, which develop pods that are very poisonous to children.

COUNTY ACTION

Los Angeles County supervisors last week instructed Health Officer K. H. Sutherland to investigate the problem of poisonous plants, such as castor bean trees and oleander, which can cause illness and death to youngsters. Dr. Sutherland has been instructed to recommend an ordinance to control dangerous plants.

County parks and recreation personnel have also been instructed to see there are no poisonous plants or shrubs in parks frequented by children.

The city attorney's office has been instructed by the city administrator to look into the legal problem of controlling the use of castor bean plants for ornamental shrubs.

But the problem of wild plants, growing unchecked in undeveloped areas, is a pressing and serious one.

Health Care for Aged Laws in Effect January 1

California's medical profession "replaced words with action" January 1 when the new law governing financing health care for certain of the aged goes into effect, according to Warren Bostick, M.D., president of the California Medical Association.

Implementation of the Kerr-Mills Law, which extends a federal-state-county cost-sharing formula to pay part or all of the long-term health care costs of those over 64 who have need for such assistance, but who do not qualify for the Old Age Security program, becomes operative January 1 as a result of action this year by the state legislature. State welfare department estimates place the number of participants at 18,000 a year.

DOCTORS FAVOR

"Doctors have spoken out strongly in favor of Kerr-Mills as one means of aiding the elderly who need help in paying their health care bills," Dr. Bostick told members of the CMA's administrative council. "Now we can help prove—through our active support and participation—that this approach to the problem can be effective. The doctors represented by the CMA are committed to making this program work successfully, whether they accept the modest fees it provides or

elect to serve their patients without charge.

"California provides one of the most liberal applications of Kerr-Mills medical assistance for the aged of the 27 states already using it or prepared to use it.

"It will not satisfy everyone, of course. No assistance is given for the first 30 days of hospital or nursing home confinement.

PRESS EDITORIAL PAGE

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Wage Reports for Farm Workers Due

Employers of agricultural workers must file their wage reports for the fourth quarter of 1961, and send deductions made from their workers' wages for disability insurance during that period to Sacramento by Jan. 31, W. P. Nebergall, Auditor-in-charge for the State Department of Employment in Long Beach, this week reminded employers.

The law requires that any employer of agricultural labor who paid total wages in excess of \$100 either to one or several workers between Sept. 30 and Dec. 31, 1961, must have deducted one percent from his workers' wages during that period and must send the deductions to Sacramento along with his report of total wages paid.

The law also requires that employers furnish their employees with a written statement showing the name of the employer and the employee, the period of employment covered, the amount of wages paid, and the deductions withheld.

Nebergall pointed out that the one percent disability insurance tax which was deducted from agricultural workers' wages between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 1961, must be reported, along with a report of total wages paid each worker, including other remuneration such as meals and lodging furnished in addition to or in lieu of cash.

Employers who need help in preparing their agricultural wage reports for the Department of Employment may contact the Audit Office at 1315 Pine Avenue or by telephoning HE4mlock 7-0171.

Supervisor Reviews 1961 Flood Control Projects

Some \$60 million in flood control construction contracts were processed by the County Flood Control District during the past year, Supervisor Burton W. Chace disclosed today.

A total of 64 contracts covering storm drain bond issue projects and regular District

flood control construction were advertised during 1961. M. E. Salsbury, chief engineer of the agency, directed preparation of the contracts, Chace said.

They ranged from several thousands of dollars each to multi-million dollar projects.

LOCAL WORK

A few of the larger jobs in the Fourth Supervisorial District bid during the past year include a six and one-half million dollar Dominguez Channel project in the Wilmington area, a million and a half dollar improvement program at Ballona Creek in the Culver City area, the Lincoln Village Storm Drain costing \$1,076,359, the \$692,112 Southeast Santa Monica Storm Drain, a \$903,550 contract for a drain in Manhattan Beach and a \$1,015,793 project covering drains in the Walteria and Torrance areas.

Chace said a number of additional important drainage projects in the Fourth District running up to a million dollars each were processed during the past year.

Early indications are that the Flood Control District will maintain the same construction pace in 1962 with a similar investment in flood protective works and water conservation facilities.

The new year will see the final three projects of the \$179 million storm drain bond issue under contract, Chace noted.

At the same time, continued progress is expected on the \$225 million program approved in 1958. This undertaking is now about at the half-way mark, Supervisor Chace added.

Taxpayers' Group Notes 2.9% Hike in Co. Population

Los Angeles County's population was 6,214,000 on Jan. 1, 1962, according to California Taxpayers' Association estimates released this week. The County showed an increase of 175,229, or 2.9 per cent, over the April 1960 Census figure.

California's total population as of Jan. 1, 1962 is estimated at 16,657,000, representing an increase of 939,796, or 6 per cent, in the 21-month period since the April 1, 1960 Census figure of 15,717,204 was set. For the first full two years of the 1960 decade the increase will approximate one million people.

Only nine counties have shown losses in population during the 21-month period since the Census. These include Alpine with a decrease of only 7 persons, Del Norte, 2,271; Humboldt, 6,192; Inyo, 84; Mendocino, 4,659; Modoc, 408; San Francisco, 1,655; Sierra, 147; and Trinity, 1,376. The greatest loss percentage since the 1960 Census was in Trinity County, with a decrease of 14.2 per cent.

Chamber Notes Overall Tax Collections Rise Sharply Throughout California

State, local and federal tax collections in California rose over \$851 million above last year's figure to reach an all-time high of \$13,558,463,762 for the fiscal year 1960-61, according to a report from the California State Chamber of Commerce included as part of a comprehensive summary of tax laws just completed by the statewide organization.

Prepared by the Economic Development and Research and Tax Departments of the Chamber, the 78-page Summary Digest gives a brief synopsis of major taxes imposed by the State of California, including rates, exemptions, credits, administrative agencies, use of tax proceeds and other related information.

Total tax collections by all levels of government in the 1959-60 fiscal year, the report shows, were \$12,760,660,281. Overall total tax collections 20 years ago, in 1940-41, amounted to \$1,074,750,497. In the category of federal tax collections, the

total for the year was \$8,486,217,000, an increase of \$488,506,000 over the previous year's total of \$7,997,711,000.

INCREASE NOTED

State tax collections to \$2,578,246,762 in 1960-61, as compared with \$2,423,632,127 for the previous year, for an increase of \$154,614,635. Local property taxes, based on the State Chamber's estimate of levies by county and city governments and school and special districts, amounted to \$2,264,000,000 as compared with the previous year's \$2,054,428,403, an increase of \$218,571,597.

In addition, city and county sales and use taxes brought in revenues of \$230,000,000 according to the Chamber's estimate. This compares with \$230,888,751 the year previous. State sales and use taxes accounted for \$711,248,785 of the total state tax collections, as compared with \$711,391,159 the previous year. Twenty years ago, in 1940-41, state sales and use taxes were at a level of

\$109,233,942.

Highway Use Fund collections totalled \$499,286,938 as compared with 482,812,221 for the previous year. The 499 million total included \$350,080,038 in Motor Vehicle Fuel Taxes; \$137,132,205 from Motor Vehicle Fees; and \$12,074,695 from tax on For-Hire Carriers.

The report discloses that increases in school district taxes amounted to \$19,624,299 in a year's time. The total for 1959-60 was \$970,375,701 as compared with the 1960-61 total of \$1,090,000,000. Twenty years ago, in 1941-42, total school district taxes amounted to \$14,237,631.

As a factor for measurement of these increases the Chamber points out that the population of California in April, 1940, was reported at 6,907,387 while it is today estimated at around 16,800,000.

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