

Desalting Plant Plans Delayed by MWD Board

Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California have voted to go ahead — on a delayed basis — with plans for a nuclear-powered desalting plant on a man-made island off Huntington Beach.

Under study by the district had been alternate sites proposed by Southern California electrical utilities, one at San Onofre and the other five miles down the coast. Both are on the Camp Pendleton property of the Marine Corps.

In reapproving the Bolsa Island location and reaffirming its intention to move forward with the project, the MWD board also decided to delay building the huge desalination plant for several years.

UNDER the new timetable,

construction would start in the mid-1970s and the plant would begin producing 50 million gallons of desalted water daily not later than 1980.

The previous timetable called for the start of construction this year, initial operation in 1974 and expansion of the plant to a capacity of 150 mgd by 1978.

Under the new program, no date was set for increasing its capacity.

The board's actions were in accord with the recommendations of the district's general manager, Henry J. Mills.

PARTNERS in the original project with MWD were Southern California Edison Co., the Los Angeles Department of Wa-

ter and Power, San Diego Gas & Electric Co., the Office of Saline Water of the Department of Interior and the Atomic Energy Commission.

Because of rising costs, the three utilities withdrew from their agreement with the district last Sept. 30. The total estimated cost had jumped from \$444 million to \$765 million as a result of inflation and changes in the design of the project.

Congress last year enacted legislation providing for a federal contribution totaling \$72 million to the cost of the desalting facilities.

Mills said the district will explore the possibilities of retaining the federal contribution in the new program.

Red Cross Youths Schedule Events

Several hundred Red Cross youth volunteers from Los Angeles city and county schools will share the true spirit of Christmas this year when they visit the sick in hospitals, carol in the streets, entertain the orthopedically handicapped, emotionally disturbed, and the blind.

"Red Cross youth volunteers want to get involved and they want to help," according to Mrs. B. Taylor Whitney, Red Cross chairman of volunteers for Southern Los Angeles communities. "And we feel Christmas is a good time to show our concern for our fellow man," she added.

Some of the events scheduled throughout the city include, a Christmas party for children at the County-USC medical center, Dec. 23; Christmas program for Spastic Childrens Foundation,

Los Angeles, Dec. 19; and a Christmas program for the Los Angeles Convalescent Home, Dec. 23.

IN THIS area, Red Cross Youth from Local High schools will carol through San Pedro and Wilmington in a pick-up truck caravan, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m.

The Red Cross youth program provides year-round activity for students. First through 12th graders work on Red Cross projects appropriate to their ages, interests, and academic studies.

Student representatives of local colleges and universities make up the Red Cross College Board, which plans programs to interest and involve student bodies both on campus and in the community.

Students who would like to become volunteers may call Red Cross at 831-0751 for more information on activities in Southern Los Angeles communities.

Hahn Report Official Wants Sirhan Trail Televised Here

By KENNETH HAHN
County Supervisor

In light of rapid advancements in television — and recognizing the public's right to know — I recently suggested the entire trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan be televised by Channel 28.

The State Judicial Council should modify its Rule 980, which prohibits "Photographing, recording for broadcasting, or broadcasting while court is in session."

Naturally, I would not suggest this if it would disrupt the trial or fill the courtroom with cameras, crews, and cables.

However, there is already a hidden television camera in the courtroom where the accused assassin of Robert F. Kennedy will be tried.

IT IS IN one of the aid conditioning units and its lens will cover most of the courtroom, including the judge and witnesses, but not the jury.

There is already a television cable from the eighth floor courtroom to a former jury room on the fourth floor which is being converted for an additional 100 reporters to cover the trial.

Channel 28 is an educational, non-profit television channel. It would seem to me simple and practical that this station could utilize the existing camera and broadcast the trial in its entirety as a public service.

NO ONE in the courtroom would see the camera. There would be no disturbance. Yet,

the public would have the opportunity to witness this historic trial.

Just as we now keep court reporters' records, a video tape should be retained of the Sirhan trial.

It would be invaluable in appeals, and higher courts up to and including the U.S. Supreme Court could see as well as hear the actual proceedings at the trial court level. Also, it would be of great benefit to law students.

Wide use of video tape will soon be commonplace. Recently, while lunching with friends, I saw demonstrated a small video tape machine which makes instant recordings. It is destined to be as common a part of the home television set as color TV is now.

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PROPERLY preserved video recordings will some day provide a most accurate record of history.

The Sirhan trial could rank in historical significance with film records of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the assassination of President Kennedy, and the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald.

I believe it is the public's Constitutional right to see this trial. Article VI of the Bill of Rights states:

"In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed..."

IF TELEVISION and radio had existed when the Bill of Rights was written, I'm sure they would have been included in the "freedom of press" amendment.

Unfortunately, I don't think the State Judicial Council will modify rule 980. The legal profession for too long has been handcuffed in tradition.

Most changes in court procedure have come through citizen demands for economy in the administration of justice, not through advocacy by the legal associations.

Perhaps some day, with the enlightenment of the Bar of California and judicial scholars, television — under proper controls — will be standard in courtrooms, and video tapes will be available for appeal purposes and for history.

One-Fare Bus Plan Proposed

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn has recommended the Southern California Rapid Transit District adopt a one-fare zone plan for metropolitan Los Angeles.

Hahn said his reasons are:

- It would stimulate passenger use.
- It would provide faster and more convenient service.
- It would relieve traffic congestion because a person could come downtown cheaper and more conveniently than driving his own automobile.

Also, with a single fare there could be an exact fare to prevent holdups and eliminate the need for bus drivers to carry large sums of money for change.

Hahn advanced his suggestion in a letter to Sam Nelson, new general manager of the SCRTRD.

HE TOLD Nelson that he had originally suggested the one fare zone within a 30-mile radius of the Los Angeles Civic Center at a luncheon in his office Jan. 10, 1966. Key members of the SCRTRD Board of Directors attended.

At that time, Hahn also suggested a cross-city grid system for buses be established in Los Angeles.

Cross-town buses on streets such as Slauson, Vermont, Imperial, Rosecrans, and others would provide a simple transfer system in which a person could transfer as often as he wanted.

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