

Pismo Finds New Wells

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will-serve letter. City Engineer Halldin said the water treatment plant — Pismo's first — is still being "fine-tuned" and may be modified before being placed in permanent operation.

"If the plant is operated correctly, the filter media should last forever," Halldin said. "But it can be damaged by improper operation of the plant and repair of the filter media would be very expensive."

But he said the plant, similar to the plant Grover City is considering to treat nitrates in its well water, is labor-efficient.

Maintenance and changing of chlorine bottles and filters might take the equivalent of 24 hours in a month and a total of a couple of days for

annual servicing, while the old "green sand" filtration system that had the standard a decade ago took three hours' work every day, he said.

The water from the new permanent wells would not have to be blended with Lopez water, Halldin said.

The new wells' water could be run through the treatment plant and then used as a water blender to improve the quality of other well water, he said.

One of the two new wells is south of Fourth Street in the Five Cities Drive area near the Quality Inn Suites. The other is north of Fourth Street by the treatment plant, a blue 30 by 80 foot well about \$100,000.

Halldin said the plant's process involves injecting chlorine and with dioxide and running water through a filter bed of six kinds of different sand material.

He said the chlorine content of the water is only a half-part per million. He also said that the city is installing new water feeder mains like along Price Street and Delhimer Street.

Two more reservoirs or water tanks are proposed for construction within the next eight months, he said.

One would hold 1 million gallons and be the existing Shell Beach tank. The other would hold 850,000 gallons and be built next to the tank that stands above Pacific Rim.

Pismo Finds New Wells, Hilton Set

By Jack Magee
Staff Writer

PISMO BEACH — The city has just increased its water supply capacity by 50 percent, City Engineer Hal Halldin said Thursday.

He said that clears the way for constructing the 249-room, four-story, \$28 million Hilton Hotel — among other projects — with virtual automatic issuance of a will-serve water letter.

Pismo Beach raised its water supply, Halldin told a meeting of the South County Economic Development Association, by adding two new permanent wells this week.

In a reference to a controversial emergency well that lies outside the Pismo Beach city limits, he noted that the two wells "are in the city of Pismo Beach, not in the city of Grover City."

Pumping the wells for a first time coincided with starting the city's new \$500,000 water treatment plant, built by R. Baker Construction Co. and financed by developer fees.

It is designed to remove iron and manganese from the water.

Halldin said the city is still pursuing the controversial Fourth Street Street emergency well in Grover City.

He said Pismo wants to drill into the deep aquifer in the underground Arroyo Grande water table and proposes a negative environmental impact declaration, but Grover wants a more thorough EIR.

According to PRC, the new wells together are producing 500 gallons per minute, better than the expected 300 gallons per minute.

He said the production equals 815 acre-feet a year. This plus the previous 700 acre-feet a year in Lopez Lake water would raise the city's water supply to 2,401 acre-feet a year.

Halldin said that is about what PRC Engineers of Orange County predicted the city's water needs would be by the year 2004 when its population would reach 11,600. The city's population is now about 8,000, Halldin said.

The Hilton, on the drawing boards for at least four years, is planned for the Dinosaur Caves area, an 11-acre site at Cliff Avenue and Shell Beach Road, said Steve Puglisi.

Puglisi is a senior vice president of the RRM Design Group of San Luis Obispo, formerly Richmond Rossi Montgomery, which represents the hotel owners, Shell Beach Hotel Partners, which has headquarters in San Diego.

Puglisi said his firm estimates the hotel's water use at 68 acre-feet a year, the equivalent of which 250 residential units would use and probably equal to the largest single commercial water user in the city.

He said the city calculates the hotel water use would be much higher. The city estimate was unavailable Thursday.

One acre-foot of water equals 326,000 gallons which is sufficient for a family of five for a year.

Puglisi said that the city installed a large water line two years ago for the assessment district serving the motel area, that all permits including the coastal permit have been issued, and that "We could start grading right away" with receipt of the water

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Test wells, study may turn up water SLO needs to keep growing

By Mark Brown 11-6-87
Telegraph-Tribune P-3-A

Although San Luis Obispo's first test well has produced less than spectacular results, a new study may turn up the water the city needs to avoid a growth slowdown.

Test wells drilled by a private developer have also turned up plenty of clean well water. The city's first test well at its golf course on Los Osos Valley Road turned up minimal amounts of marginal-quality water. But test wells less than a mile down the road turned up plenty of high-quality water.

"I'm not surprised," said David Romero, public works director. "There's no question there's a great body of ground water underneath the city. I was sure of it all along. There's ground water that was used and is available. All we have to do is find a way to hook it into our system."

By the end of the month, city staff members will give the City Council a contract to approve for a six-month study of ground water, Romero said. The city is at the limit of its safe annual yield and is looking for new water supplies. Many proposed solutions, such as expansion of the

proposed Irish Hills Golf Course found lots of water that came close to meeting standards and would need little treatment, according to a report prepared by Bussa Thiers, a partnership developing the course. Halldin and Romero will take a proposal to the City Council to start the full-scale ground water study. The firm will analyze the geography and other factors involved, Romero said, then put down test wells in the most likely spot for water. He's sure they'll come up with a strong for the city.

Strong wells have been used in the past in the Madonna Plaza area and other spots around the city. The city will pump the well for six to nine months, using its water to irrigate the golf course, Halldin said. At the end of that time, studies will show the long-term quality of the water. But just down the road, studies at

the proposed Irish Hills Golf Course found lots of water that came close to meeting standards and would need little treatment, according to a report prepared by Bussa Thiers, a partnership developing the course. Halldin and Romero will take a proposal to the City Council to start the full-scale ground water study. The firm will analyze the geography and other factors involved, Romero said, then put down test wells in the most likely spot for water. He's sure they'll come up with a strong for the city.

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"There was a good well, I'm told, near the city center on Price Street, Prido Road, right in the middle of the 101 freeway," Romero said. "It was capped over when they put the freeway through there."

"The city also looked to a ground water well at Five Station Road, at Garden and Pioneer streets," Romero said. "The ground water study should take less than six months and will tell us where we could put our wells and what treatment we'd have to do and what facilities we'd have to build to make it tie in with our system," Romero said.