

Arroyo Grande remains frugal wi

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ARROYO GRANDE — Faced with marginal water reserves, the City Council has been fielding requests for water from would-be users based outside the city limits, with mixed results.

Two requests came from mobilehome parks on the city's southern boundary, a third from a community of 54 single-family homes near Stagecoach Road. The remaining two were from developers who would like to build new housing on land north and south of town.

None of the answers was easy or clear cut. On Aug. 27, city staff had recommended that council members not provide water service to properties outside of the city's limits — if it could affect the city's supply. In October, council members were told resi-

dential water use had topped 90 percent of capacity and conservation is needed.

With those comments in mind, council members reminded Tuesday's applicants that while the city is not in a position to let outsiders dip into its reserves without restraint, it would still consider requests for service from sites within the city's sphere of influence — land currently outside the city limits but into which the town might eventually expand.

Two mobilehome parks, the Grande Mobile Manor and Double J Mobile Home Park, both in the city's sphere of influence, were the most urgent applicants.

Located at the intersection of Halcyon Road and The Pike, the two are long established, their sites originally approved by the county. Now, their water is heavy with selenium and ni-

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trates. Park residents may use the contaminated water for bathing and laundry but must import bottled water for drinking.

The council voted to allow both parks to connect to city water as quickly as possible — on a temporary basis. The city will supply water for five years, then re-examine the situation to see if the hookup should become permanent or if there is, by then, another solution.

The council's action, however, does not imply an immediate solution.

The deal must be approved by the Local Agency Formation Commission, and the Public Works Department must complete the physical hookup, a process expected to take a period of 60 to 90 days.

Canyon Crest, a community with 54 single-family homes near Stagecoach Road and not in the city's sphere of influence, has an existing water system that has become unwieldy.

The community's four wells are losing capacity and the hard water requires treatment with lime and soda ash before it can be drinkable. Disposing of the processing residue is difficult.

Frank Harris, president of the Canyon Crest Water Co., said the community had been told the city of Oceano has surplus wa-

ith water supply

ter. On Tuesday, the Arroyo Grande City Council agreed to help transport Oceano water to Canyon Crest lines — a process called "wheeling."

Ellsworth Coker is proposing to build 11 single-family homes on land off Halcyon Road near The Pike. At the southerly edge of the city, water and sewer lines are nearby, and Coker said that while he could buy water from Oceano, it would be easier to get it from Arroyo Grande.

Council members voted against supplying city water but offered to "wheel" Oceano water to the site.

While the land is close to the city's limits, it is not in an area marked for expansion.

At the north end of the city, the Mors property, which is marked for division into two parcels, is in the same category. City Council members said they

could not help the owner of either property and suggested they look to other sources for water.

Public Works Director Don Spagnolo told the council the city might be able to make extra money on such deals. It could sell its own water at higher rates to mobilehome park users because the park is beyond the city limits.

And at Canyon Crest, Arroyo Grande could make a profit by transporting Oceano's water through city-owned mains.

"The water situation is going to be a volatile one for the foreseeable future," Councilman Tony Ferrara said.

In the past, the city has allowed individual meters beyond city limits on special occasions. A recent report indicates there are now 17 such hookups. In each case, a nearby city water main was already in place.