

Homes in Holiday Lake Estates to be included in Morgan Hill's Urban Service Area.

The Santa Clara Water District is behind a drive to get all the homes that border Anderson Reservoir into Morgan Hill's Urban Service Area and connected to the public sewer system. At issue is the water quality in Anderson Reservoir. Many of the homes on the lake started out as vacation cabins built near the water. These cabins were eventually replaced with permanent homes with septic systems.

According to Mike Di Marco, Public Information Representative for the water district, coliform bacteria has been found in the water at various times. Although the source of the bacteria has not been established, one possible culprit is the septic systems that still serve some of the homes around the lake.

Many of the existing septic systems have problems that may eventually contribute to lower water quality. Some of the systems were put in too close to the reservoir,



Anderson Reservoir, nearly full after heavy spring rains.

others were placed in areas that have a high degree of slope allowing the effluent to move too rapidly through the soil. Still other systems are failing due to age but are situated on small lots without enough room for a new system.

To remedy the situation the water district wants all homes near the lake to be connected to a sewer line. There is an existing sewer line that serves most of Holiday Lake Estates; this line will have to be extended to the remaining houses. Kathy Molloy Previsich, Community Development Director for the City of Morgan Hill, offered a very rough estimate of \$25,000 to \$40,000 per house for the hookup. The option, she continued, is to declare houses uninhabitable when their septic system ceases to function. A special assessment district will probably need to be set up to cover the cost of extending the sewer.

According to Laura Young, water quality specialist for the water district, there will be meetings held at Holiday Lake Estates in September to bring the issues before the public.

Anderson Reservoir supplies water to most of the northern part of the county. So far the quality of water being drawn from the reservoir has not been affected. Water for Holiday Lake Estates itself comes from wells. Well water is not normally treated except in the case of high concentrations of nitrate, when water containing low concentrations of nitrate are added to bring the nitrate level down to an acceptable level.

None of the chemicals that now plague the ground water supply from Morgan Hill to Gilroy has ever been detected in Anderson Reservoir, according to Di Marco. □