

Alkali Lake Land Use Change Denied

A change of land use extension for the Alkali Lake chemical waste disposal testing program was denied Monday night, January 26, by the Lake County Planning Commission in a meeting held at the Paisley High School.

N. R. Smith, secretary of the commission, said the denial was voted by the group because it has not been kept adequately informed about the monitoring program and results in connection with the test project. Last fall, when the commission granted the temporary change of use, it was required that the testing agency at Oregon State University return to the board for one-year extensions, for up to three years, on January 25 each year.

The commission had before it the written protest of a group of ranchers who recently visited the waste dump site. The commission has classified all such land for agriculture only, and a change of use must be granted before it can be put to other use.

In a discussion of the county zoning program, the commission accepted the advice of District Attorney Chick Chaloupka who suggested they keep clear of detailed technicalities. The board voted, also, that before final action on any change of land use, the proposal will be advertised first. They also agreed to have maps made of all towns and cities in the county for use in reference to land use change proposals.

The commission's next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on February 9 at the county courthouse, and at the same time on February 23 at Paisley.

Chemical Waste Degradation Report Cites Alkali Lake Test

In his second report on the experimental degradation of chemical waste at Alkali Lake, project leader Dr. Goulding of O. S. U. said experiments to date indicate the site is suitable for chemical waste disposal. The experimental program at Alkali Lake site was initiated October 14, 1969, when the first two experimental small plots were set up and treated.

One plot was established on a relatively low-lying ground near the lake playa where the brine pool level at the time of application was approximately four feet below the surface. The other plot was established at a higher point but still on highly alkaline soil with a brine pool at a depth of approximately eleven feet. A sample of DCP bleed was applied to each of these 10' x 10' plots at a rate equivalent to a thousand gallons per acre. The actual amount used on the 10' x 10' plots was 2.3 gallons.

Following treatment each plot was immediately subject to flooding at a rate of three inches of water. This flooding was repeated on two successive occasions five days apart for a total application of nine inches of water over a ten day period. One the day following the last flooding, water samples were taken from wells which had been drilled adjacent to the plot and soil samples were collected within the plots from the soil surface to the level of the brine pool.

These treatments represent an over - application of the waste material and certainly nine inches applied within a ten day interval is far in excess of any precipitation likely to occur in the Alkali Lake environment. Under these circumstances small amounts of 2,4-D could be detected at a depth of approximately four feet below the surface of the soil with the bulk of the pesticide concentrated in a region extending from about and one-half feet below the soil surface to about twelve inches

below the surface. It was noted that the concentration of pesticide in the first inch to inch and one-half of soil collected on the surface contained a considerably reduced concentration of 2,4-D.