

Brown signing plan today

By John Spalding
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The odd-even gasoline sales plan, first proposed by Santa Clara County when long lines began forming at the pumps, is set to go into effect Wednesday here and in other California counties that declare a local gas emergency.

Dom Cortese, chairman of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, confirmed this morning that the plan to control sales of gasoline according to vehicle license plates will take effect at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday.

All that's left is the formality of Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. signing documents. He was expected to sign them today at

11:30 a.m. in San Francisco, his office said.

The documents will declare a statewide gasoline emergency and authorize odd-even distribution in counties requesting it.

The plan carries enforcement provisions.

Santa Clara County supervisors became the first board in California to get in line for odd-even, declaring a local state of emergency Monday and asking permission to implement the plan here.

Los Angeles and San Diego counties have adopted emergency resolutions. Supervisors in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Mateo, Solano, Napa, Monterey, Santa Cruz, Mendo-

cino, Sacramento, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Orange counties were to consider similar action today.

San Francisco County supervisors have delayed action until Monday and the board in San Benito County rejected odd-even.

Odd-even will not make more fuel available, but is expected to reduce lines which have grown longer in some parts of the state in recent weeks.

The odd-even regulations remained nearly unchanged after a meeting of officials in Sacramento on Monday. The only modification was to exempt out-of-state license plates, "in

Back of Section Col 1

Odd-even to become law at midnight

Continued from Page 1

order to avoid confusion for people who come in without knowing the rules," said Richard Maullin, chairman of the state Energy Commission.

Other drivers in odd-even counties will have to line up for fuel by license number. Vehicles with plates ending in an odd number or with personalized plates may purchase gasoline on odd numbered days. Cars with even numbered or new car paper plates may buy on even numbered days. The 31st day of a month will be a day open to everyone. Commercial and emergency vehicles and those driven by handicapped persons will be exempt.

Customers must buy at least half a tank and no more than 20 gallons.

A violation is a misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum \$500 fine and up to six months in jail.

Violations should be reported to the sheriff's office or city police department, Gray Davis,

the governor's chief of staff, said at the Sacramento meeting.

Terry McGovern, representing the California Service Station Dealers Association, asked the governor to declare May 16 and 21 as free days for gas. These are the days immediately preceding and following the four-day shutdown of stations planned by operators in California and 35 other states who want the federal government to increase dealers' profits.

McGovern said dealers get 10.47 cents per gallon sold and want at least two cents a gallon more because federal regulations have not allowed them an increase since 1974.

Rusty Schweickert, an aide to the governor, urged the association to call off the shutdown because "you will be hurting people who are not responsible for the problem you cite."

Recreational vehicle representatives and spokespersons for recreation areas at the

meeting questioned whether the plan would hurt them.

Don Gamel of the Central Valley Recreational Vehicle Dealers, noted there were \$80 million in RV sales last year and that there should be some special category in the plan for the recreational vehicles.

Maullin told tourist industry representatives the plan will bring some order and "will not be a burden if travelers plan their trips well."

Transit operators around the state report increased ridership.

Santa Clara County Transit District Director James Graebner has reported a 44 percent increase in riders in April compared with the same month a year ago.

The Southern California Rapid Transit District reported 10 percent more passengers boarded its buses in April than a year ago. Taxi service was up 30 percent, a taxi cab association spokesman said.

San Diego Transit District figures were not available, but an official said "it's apparent we have an awful lot more riders."

Greyhound and Continental Trailways buses were carrying 30 percent more riders into and out of San Francisco, with big increases in service to tourist areas, including Lake Tahoe and Reno, bus company officials said.

The Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District reported an increase of more than 500,000 riders in April over the same month in 1978, and the Bay Area Rapid Transit District, coming off the lengthy closure of the trans-bay tube, reported ridership jumped from a daily average of 148,000 to a high of 162,000 passengers last Friday.

The San Francisco Municipal Railway reported \$500,000 more at the farebox in the last two months and taxi drivers said they were experiencing a 10 percent increase in calls.