

(copy)

August 23, 1935

Mr. Robert W. Flack
City Manager
San Diego, California

My dear Mr. Flack:

I see by today's paper that again there is serious consideration of transfer of Sutherland funds. This cannot be done without a vote of the people and, in my opinion, they will never vote it. We have too much money invested in Sutherland.

The city has spent over \$10,000,000 in developing its present system, the so-called Spreckels System, with a net safe yield of roughly 10,000,000 gallons a day, while, for not to exceed \$5,000,000 or \$3,500,000 more we can get 6,000,000 gallons a day out of Sutherland, and they already have roughly \$2,000,000 to \$2,500,000 invested.

Before any further plans are made for the completion of Sutherland it will take a bond issue any way, but the money intact, roughly \$650,000, should be used for the purchase of every foot of riparian land from Sutherland to Hodges. However, in order to keep out of legal complications and complete Sutherland for \$200,000 you can get the consent to build between Sutherland and Hodges, with the exception of the Fenton ranch. This can probably be purchased for \$100,000. I have an option at \$110,000. The original price was \$325,000 five years ago. The \$200,000 for the riparian rights giving consent to build Sutherland Dam would have cost us \$800,000 or more five years ago.

I would by all means urge the purchase of the Fenton ranch and the acquisition of the riparian rights affecting the building of Sutherland Dam to be spent immediately, i.e., \$300,000.

As the city officials know, I represent these land owners but I also have the interests of the city at heart and believe that never in the history of the city will the opportunity come again that exists today.

I realize the importance of completing the El Capitan pipe line.

There is no legal reason why the following procedure cannot be carried out: Issue water warrants for five years, creating a separate unit of the El Capitan and San Diego River water revenues and disbursements to comply with the law and each year pay off these water warrants. The City Council has authority to do this without a vote of the people. To illustrate, borrow from the Sutherland fund \$100,000 or

Mr. Robert W. Flack
#2

\$200,000 as the case may be, issue water bearing revenue warrants in lieu thereof, and pay back to the fund over a five year period the money that is borrowed. The issuance of these warrants is legal and my authority is the attorney for the P.W.A. in Washington, who went into the matter thoroughly and the P.W.A. would have taken these warrants if my suggested plan to the City Council had been carried out.

The City has established a precedent and borrowed from this Sutherland fund before when it took certain moneys and exchanged them for El Capitan bonds. My understanding is that later, when all the bonds were sold at a premium, the money was refunded to the Sutherland fund. In other words, the amount of money needed to complete the Lake Hodges improvement and complete the El Capitan pipe line can be borrowed from this Sutherland fund and water revenue warrants can be issued in lieu thereof. Then as the revenues come in the money can be repaid into the Sutherland fund. All of this can be done without the necessity of calling an election.

With the \$300,000 used for the control of the riparian rights between Sutherland and Hodges so that Sutherland Dam can be built, there still remain \$300,000 or \$350,000 that can be used for the El Capitan pipe line and Hodges or as much as necessary.

The above is just a suggestion for your consideration.

Sincerely yours

(signed) Ed Fletcher



CITY OF SAN DIEGO

OFFICE OF
R. W. FLACK
CITY MANAGER

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

August 31, 1935

Senator Ed Fletcher
1020 - Ninth Ave.
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Senator:

Be advised that your suggestion that the City could borrow money from the Sutherland Dam Bond Fund and repay said fund from revenue of the Water Department, was referred to the Legal Department. They report that the proposal is legally impossible.

Very truly yours,

R. W. Flack
R. W. Flack

City Manager

rwf/dk

September 3, 1935

Mr. Robert W. Flack
City Manager
San Diego, California

My dear Mr. Flack:

Answering yours of August 31st, which I find on my desk on my return from a trip North, will say that I did not suggest the borrowing of any money from the Sutherland Dam bond fund. The City Attorney found it legally possible to take money from that fund and transfer City of San Diego El Capitan bonds to the tune of something like \$500,000. Later on the city sold the El Capitan bonds and returned the money to the Sutherland fund. Just so the city can issue five year water revenue bonds. Then the city can sell the five year water bonds to the Sutherland fund and later on buy back the bonds or pay them off from the water revenues. It is a simple matter of setting up a method of bookkeeping to comply with the legal requirements. This matter was gone into carefully by the attorney for the W.P.A. with me and was legally approved.

Mr. Byers is in a position to encourage or not this method of financing as he may wish but it is a solution of the problem to get \$200,000 or \$500,000 temporarily of the Sutherland funds and still have enough remain to acquire the necessary water rights between Sutherland and Pamo that will allow the completion of Sutherland Dam.

I will be glad to meet with you and Mr. Byers at any time and discuss the matter, as I have already discussed it with Mr. Byers once before. I am sure Mr. Byers wants to cooperate in every way possible.

I have a feeling that San Diego will be sleeping on its rights and will pay literally hundreds of thousands through the nose, once this Sutherland money is transferred. It is true I represent the land owners of the San Pasqual Valley but I never was so sincere in my life as I am in my statement that, by acquiring the water rights now between Sutherland and Pamo, the city is picking up \$20 gold pieces for \$5 to \$5 each and it will be a crime to overlook the opportunity.

Will be glad to meet you at any time. Can you go to lunch with me today or tomorrow?

With kind regards

Sincerely yours

EF:RC

November 30, 1935.

Mr. Robert W. Flack,
City Manager,
City of San Diego,
California.

My dear Mr. Flack:

I think it a pity that time is being wasted and nothing being done to complete Sutherland dam. We have an investment there of nearly \$2,500,000 standing idle. I selected and purchased the Sutherland damsite in 1911 and for years we controlled it, until it was eventually sold to the San Diego County Water Company, or San Diego Water Supply Company, I do not remember which. At any rate it is under a lease contract with the city today.

On their invitation I have represented for years 34 riparian owners of the San Pasqual River. At one time we were going to be paid something like a million dollars in order to acquire the lands and extinguish the riparian rights between Hodges and Sutherland. Those were days when prices were high.

Some little time ago I submitted an offer to acquire certain ownership of lands and rights for \$300,000 that would allow the completion of Sutherland dam immediately. It did not include the purchase of the Fenton Ranch. Today I will undertake to furnish either the lands or the rights for \$200,000, excepting the Fenton and the White properties, which will allow the construction of Sutherland dam and the diversion of water out of the watershed. The Fenton Ranch is riparian to the stream, the water has been in use for 15 years. Several hundred acres are in alfalfa, and when you pump on the Fenton Ranch the water level is materially lowered across the stream on the Webb property, which shows there is no question about it being riparian, not alone to the San Pasqual River but to the Ramona Creek, which is one of the main feeders to the San Pasqual and the Ramona Creek runs right thru the Fenton property.

The original price was \$350,000. I can furnish that property outright purchase today for \$100,000.

-2-

The city contracted to pay for the Prentice or Yawkey property \$125,000, and paid \$25,000 on account. I will undertake to furnish this property for \$50,000, an outright deed, subject to the Prentice reservation which the city included in its original purchase.

The cheapest water in the county for the city is the completion of Sutherland, the building of a low diversion dam at Pamo and run the water across the Linda Vista Mesa into San Diego by gravity. Some day the Pamo dam will be built, and there are 15 to 17 million gallons of water daily net safe yield additional supply for the city to come from the complete development of that watershed.

After the completion of Sutherland and the diversion of water from Sutherland to San Vicente, or Mission Gorge, or both, the next step should be the construction of a gravity pipe line across the Linda Vista Mesa to the Pamo damsite, diverting the normal flow of the river without building the dam, and in the summer months pumping from the underground gravels of the San Pasqual into the pipe line last above mentioned. Just from pumping and the normal diversion 8 or 10 million gallons daily can be secured, while the completion of Sutherland would give 6 to 8 million gallons a day in combination with storage at San Vicente or Mission Gorge.

By all means this is the next and cheapest development possible and steps should be taken immediately to take advantage of W P A funds for the complete Sutherland dam and the diversion of the water to the city.

I also core drilled at Pamo damsite about a mile below the original damsite. There there is splendid foundation for a diversion dam at sufficient height to flow by gravity into the city.

It is vital that we put a water supply on Linda Vista mesa section, particularly what is now in the City of San Diego, and develop that country. There are more than sufficient funds, cash in the bank, to pay for the entire control of water rights and lands necessary, known as the Sutherland fund, to clean up that proposition. No matter what any man tells you to the contrary riparian rights of centuries are still valuable and you can no more build that dam at Sutherland without first settling with the riparian owners than you can fly.

I would be glad to go into conference with you on this subject at any time it suits your convenience. To my notion the Colorado River is a fantastic dream for a supply of water for San Diego County, but as a matter of insurance I am in favor of spending \$10,000 or \$15,000 a year to keep a hold on a possible water supply, for the next 10 years or more, as an extra factor of safety only.

Please let me know if and when I can have a conference with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

EF M

WILSON GIBSON
ELIOT MURPHY
DON GREENBERG
ELIOT LAYTON
CC - 89 74
MAY 74

DISCUSSIONS

REGISTRATION

TO REGISTERED MEMBERS: **March 16, 1957**

Mr. Robert S. Flack

City Manager
San Diego, California

My dear Mr. Flack:

As you see by the papers that you are considering seriously the building of Mission Gorge #2.

You have not lived here through our many water fights. Mission Gorge #2 will never be built unless there is a very decided change in the opinion of the public - it has been turned down overwhelmingly by a vote of the people two or three times.

I urge the building of San Vicente first on the San Diego River - the people will probably vote for the purchase of the San Dieguito project. This will allow us to complete Sutherland Dam and bring San Vicente water over. With San Vicente built, we still have 124 square miles of watershed for Mission Gorge #3 to impound. It is the natural location for the storage of water with the largest amount of water for the least surface exposure.

Mission Gorge #3 will probably be built after I am dead. I do not own the property - my children own 5/11ths and an outside party 5/11ths - subject to an agreement in relation thereto. Mr. O'Shaunessy, the famous engineer, in his written report and by telegram said that the first dam on the San Diego River to be built should be Mission Gorge #3. Such prominent Engineers as U.S. Government Engineer Salew, Major Olberg; also Chief Hydraulic Engineer of the Railroad Commission, M.F. Foudie, also Hydraulic Engineer Brown and King - all made reports as to the value of Mission Gorge #3 and desirability of building a dam at that point - our core drilling shows the bedrock to be perfect.

Mr. Savage always opposed any project I ever proposed, and deliberately in his report so loaded down the cost of Mission Gorge #3 of a gravity arch type dam, that it made it objectionable. The State Engineer of California, through one of his assistants, having only Mr. Savage's comparative costs to work on, leaned strongly toward #2 as compared to #3, with the result that the cost factor gave it preference to #3.

Mr. Robert W. Flack:

No gravity arch dam should be built at #3, it should be a single arch which can be built for around a million and a half to two million dollars as compared to three and a half million, Savage's report. Mission Gorge #3 has been thoroughly examined by State experts and a single arch dam can be built with safety at #3. Enclosed find copy of letter from State Engineer Hyatt that is explanatory. The factors of safety of a single arch are greater when properly built - we have had figures heretofore for a single arch dam at Mission Gorge #3 that proves my contention, and we are going to get them again for your benefit.

Mission Gorge #2 I am opposed to and always will be for the following reasons:

It furnishes a purely evaporation pan; destroys the possibility of revenue from the Valley lands of El Cajon; wipes out the town of Santee; forces the construction of many miles of new highway and railroad - Mr. Savage's estimate of the acquisition and payment of this damage is entirely too low, and it is an economic crime; the water should be stored at El Capitan and San Vicente where it is ideal with so little surface exposure, and later on with San Vicente and El Capitan built, Mission Gorge #3 will serve the best purpose for the final determination as to height to completely, for all practical purposes, control the river, and with a much larger net safe yield than if only Mission Gorge #2 was built, while San Vicente is invaluable as a cheap and quick method of bringing water from Sutherland.

If and when the time comes I will be glad to submit detail in relation thereto. Please give this matter your most serious consideration.

Sincerely yours,

EF/jv

CC -Ed Jr.
Fred Pyle
Don Stewart
Fred Rhodes
Rufus Choate

*Full
Mission Gorge*

June 17, 1937

Mr. Robert W. Flack
City Manager
San Diego, California

My dear Mr. Flack:

Enclosed find copy of letter from Mr. Lars Jorgensen dated March 25th, the man who has probably designed more dams than any other man in the State of California, and who has several times inspected Mission Gorge #3.

He has the core drillings which we furnished him as to bed rock, and his estimates of cost are interesting. Also enclosed find copy of letter from our State Engineer, Mr. Hyatt, showing his friendly attitude toward a single arch or constant angle arch dam at Mission Gorge #3. I have asked Mr. Jorgensen to write Mr. Rhodes and furnish him detailed information as to estimates, etc., so as to check up on how close we can count on the estimate of cost.

Mr. Savagenever would recommend anything but gravity arch dams which have cost double the amount necessary. He was of the old school and knew nothing excepting mass concrete. When I was President of the San Dieguito Water Company and paid the bills, we built Lake Hodges dam at a total cost of \$410,000, including engineering. The old school engineers made us strengthen the dam at a cost of a couple thousand dollars on account of possible earthquakes, although I have pictures showing the water eleven feet 8" over the spillway, and Lloyds of London insured it for a cheaper rate than the massive Otay and Barrett dams.

I am sure a dam can be built at Mission Gorge for \$1,600,000 or \$1,700,000 holding back the water to a 350 ft. contour. This is less than one-half the cost estimated by Mr. Savage for a gravity dam. I wish you would go into the matter very carefully at your convenience, and take it up with Mr. Rhodes - he will give you the picture. I do not expect to see Mission Gorge #3 built until after I am gone and out of the picture, but it is coming one of these days, and anytime you are interested in the matter, I will be glad to talk it over with you.

Mr. Robert W. Flack:

I have recommended the building of San Vicente dam which will cost \$5,000,000 or \$4,000,000 just because I do not see any chance of Mission Gorge #5 being built, although if built, it is the cheapest water ever developed in the County and closest at home, but it has been in controversy for twenty years and twenty years from now I will be dead - it may come then.

kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

EF/jv

Enclosure

July 19, 1937

Mr. Robert W. Flack
City Manager
San Diego, California

My dear Mr. Flack:

Enclosed find copy of letter I wrote Mr. Pyle and his answer in reply.

The price of our Mission Gorge dam sight lands needed below and the lands that we control above to the 340 ft. contour, has been \$150,000 - that was the price to the District, but we have reduced it to \$100,000 either on terms or cash with 4% interest.

If we cannot agree on the value, we are willing to leave it to arbitration or the Courts.

The above is assuming that some action will be taken within a reasonable time, say twelve months, from date.

Sincerely yours,

EF/jv

Enclosure

CC-Mr. Fred Rhodes: For your information

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 8 Folder: 11

General Correspondence - Flack, Robert W.



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