

THE ARMY AND NAVY CLUB

Washington

July 6, 1916.

Dear Col. Fletbher:

I had an opportunity today to drop a few words in the ear of Secretary Lane in support of your contentions with regard to Capitan Grande Indian Reservation, and hope my talk will do some good.

Don't forget that I want to sell my Alpine ranch. Let me hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. R. Wheeler.

Copy-MMS
Original to Secy. Lane
7/12/16.

84

December 6, 1916.

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o Hotel Willard,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wheeler:

I fully appreciate your kind letter of the 28th, and your interest in our behalf, in a square deal for the Cuyamaca Water Co.

It is true that the Hamilton application, now before the Secretary of the Interior, asking permission to flood certain Indian lands, was a promotion as well as blackmailing scheme on the part of two of our discharged employees, Sackett and Hagar, and they got this man Hamilton, a friend of theirs in Montana, to make the water filing, so as not to reveal their own identity. Sackett was our former engineer, and he secured all the information relative to the El Capitan damsite while in our employ and at our expense. In fact, he stole all the records of the surveys from our office, and although we have brought suit and done everything possible we have failed to get possession of them.

Hamilton, who made the water filing admitted under oath, at the hearing in Los Angeles, that he had never been in the water business before, and that it was purely a promotion scheme. Sackett, our former engineer, and Hagar, our former superintendent, were discharged because we believed they were crooked. Hamilton, Sackett and Hagar had as attorney one L. L. Boone, who was the former attorney of the Cuyamaca Water Co., but when we took over the system we refused to employ him, and I have had his personal enmity ever since.

Boone drew up the original Hamilton water filing for Hamilton, Sackett and Hagar, as well as the option to purchase the Kuehner property, on which the El Capitan damsite itself is located. They failed to exercise their option in the purchase of the Kuehner property within the specified time, and I stepped in and bought the property, so the way the situation is now, the Hamilton water filing was located on the Kuehner property at the time they held the option; but we now own the land, and have a clear certificate of title to this property on which the Hamilton filing was made.

Hamilton, through an agent, offered to sell out to us for \$25,000, and eventually as low as \$3000, but Mr. Murray, my partner, would not pay a cent for tribute. Eventually, Boone, the attorney, who has been a personal and political enemy of mine for years, acquired the Hamilton water filing

and application before the Secretary of the Interior for his attorney's fees. Boone then made the City of San Diego a present of the Hamilton water filing and application. This was after the Secretary of the Interior had turned down the original application, but before the right of re-hearing had lapsed. The Great City of San Diego then stepped in, as the assignee of Hamilton, and are asking the Secretary of the Interior to approve the original fake Hamilton filing.

There has been a political fight on in San Diego for years -- I strongly supporting Governor Johnson, and certain individuals - standpatters - taking the other side. Then there is a clique of men, not city officials, who in the guise of claiming a commission, demand big money from anyone who puts up a proposition to sell to the city. They control the officials, however, most of them, and it is an easy matter for them to kill any proposition unless these politicians or grafters, whatever you might call them, are fixed first. We offered to sell the Cuyamaca System to the City of San Diego on the basis of \$50,000 down and \$10,000 a month, at a price to be set by the State Railroad Commission of California, plus \$100,000 bonus on account of the easy terms. The city council turned it down, in my opinion through the influence of these politicians, one of whom demanded \$50,000 from me to let the deal go through.

I have not this in writing, and cannot prove it, but I can prove that in another proposed deal with the city, as I have it in writing, it was going to cost \$75,000 to put it through. And I also have the shorthand notes of a lady who was out of sight, but not out of hearing, and who took down the entire conversation, which is now in my safe deposit vault, sworn to before a notary. In other words the whole thing has been an attempted hold-up, which we will not stand for.

When the City of San Diego refused to buy the Cuyamaca system, we sold it to the La Mesa, Lemon Grove and Spring Valley Irrigation District; but a certain suit was brought by the said L. L. Boone, which clouded the title to the bonds, and broke up that sale. In the meantime, to add to the confusion, when we signed a contract to sell the Cuyamaca system to the District, the City brought suit to condemn, and held that club over us until after the time had expired for us to sell to the district and the sale was called off; then the City of San Diego called off its condemnation suit. You can see the fine handiwork of the politicians behind the scenes, who in my opinion control the whole situation.

That is where we stand today, with the exception that the City of San Diego has spent about \$20,000, in my opinion, at the suggestion of certain politicians in litigation and blocking our sale, and it has cost us fully as much.

Now, there is another feature I should like to explain, and it is almost impossible for a public service corporation to cope with, for we are fighting a municipality. I refer to the City Attorney of San Diego, who has seemed to be a willing tool to these politicians. Certainly every indication points that way.

The Honorable city attorney presents to the Secretary of the Interior City's Exhibit No. 9, which purports to show that on the first of January, 1917 San Diego will have a population of 118,000. I can furnish the sworn testimony of the manager of the Gas and Electric Company which furnishes gas and electricity to the entire city of San Diego, that the population of the city of San Diego is not to exceed 82,500; while the daily San Diego Union has just published a statement that the population is only 80,000. The highest stretch of imagination could not make it more than 85,000 or 90,000.

The Honorable City Attorney of San Diego presented to the Secretary of the Interior City's Exhibit No. 10, showing that on the first day of January, 1917, the average daily consumption throughout the year would be 11,750,000 gallons of water. The truth is that for the year 1916 the daily average consumption is less than 9,000,000, and this would have been cut down at least 1,000,000 gallons daily had it not been for the extra demand on account of our exposition for this year.

City Attorney Cosgrove deliberately misrepresented the facts, and for a purpose. He claimed a shortage of water, and that a dire emergency existed; that the very life of the city of San Diego was in danger if the Secretary of the Interior did not grant the Hamilton application and let the City of San Diego proceed to build the El Capitan Dam.

The fact of the matter is, as you know, there are probably 10,000 people in San Diego today less than there were three years ago; that with the Exposition over San Diego will not use anywhere nearly as much water for the year 1917 as for the year 1916; and no emergency exists whatever.

Last winter both Morena and Lower Otay dams were filled to overflowing, so much so that Otay Dam went out. But Morena Dam last spring contained over 13,000,000,000 gallons of water. Today, there is over 12,000,000,000 gallons of water in storage in the city's reservoirs. Morena Dam is within three or four feet of being full, and we are at the commencement of the winter season.

San Diego is now spending \$15,000 to protect the top of Morena Dam, so that it will not be damaged by overflow this winter, and within forty days the City of San Diego

will vote bonds in the sum of \$682,000 to be used in the rebuilding of the Lower Otay Dam. This bond issue of 682,000 was submitted to the people on the 17th day of November, and only failed of a two-thirds majority by a few votes. It will unquestionably carry next time.

The City of San Diego has pumping plants installed, and pumped last spring 4 or 5 million gallons daily from its wells in the San Diego River, but owing to its large amount of surplus water it stopped pumping on June 1, 1916. With the San Diego River pumping plants and the Morena Reservoir filled, together with the Upper Otay Reservoir and the Chollas Heights Reservoir owned by the city, all of which are practically filled with water today, there is enough water available, if it does not rain another drop to last the City of San Diego for a period of six years; and with normal rainfall each year, there is a full supply of water in the city for ten or eleven years.

Therefore, there is no urgent need, as far as the City of San Diego is concerned, that the Secretary of the Interior should grant the request of the City and recognize the fake Hamilton filing and application before the Secretary of the Interior.

By referring to the motion of City Attorney Cosgrove of San Diego from the decision of Assistant Secretary of the Interior "D-30075", received by the Department of the Interior on July 26, 1915, said motion signed by T. B. Cosgrove on behalf of the City of San Diego, and acknowledged before a notary on the 19th day of July, 1915, you will see on page 7, paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 the following statement:

"That the safe net yield of this system (the entire city system) is estimated, on a 20-year period, at from five to six million gallons daily."

This statement is incorrect and misleading in two particulars.

(1st). The net safe yield of this system is between seven and eight million gallons daily, and (2nd) in addition thereto the City Attorney did not notify the Secretary of the Interior that pumping plants were installed at the time this brief was filed, said pumping plants being capable of developing four to five million gallons daily, which was an additional supply, and, in all fairness, should have been taken into consideration and mentioned by City Attorney Cosgrove as a statement of fact.

In this case, the City Attorney was anxious to show as small an available water supply as possible in order to prove the existence of an emergency; while before the State

Railroad Commission of California a little later, when we were asking for the re-establishment of rates for the Cuyamaca System, the same City Attorney Cosgrove of San Diego introduced evidence to show that the net safe yield of the same city system, together with the pumping plants was 10 1/2 million gallons daily. In this case his desire was to keep the price of water per thousand gallons as low as possible.

The presentation of such testimony in such manner is incomprehensible to us, and to say the least is misleading.

In addition to the available supply of water heretofore mentioned, the Cuyamaca Water Co. is ready at any time during five or six months of the year to furnish any amount of water up to six or seven million gallons daily to the City of San Diego at a price set by the State Railroad Commission of California. This was demonstrated during the flood season last January, when Lower Otay dam went out, and we took care of the entire needs of the city of San Diego for over two months, as well as our own; and our pipelines at the present time are connected up with the city's mains at three different points, so that water can be furnished at a moment's notice in case of an emergency.

Another reason why the Secretary of the Interior should not grant the request of the City of San Diego is the fact that the city's financial condition is such that it has not the ability to build the El Capitan dam and pipeline to the city, even if the permission were granted it. The city is bonded for between \$11,000,000 and \$12,000,000 today. Its excess bonding capacity, within the 15% ^{limit} prescribed by law, is approximately \$1,700,000; according to a statement by the City Auditor, now in my possession. When the bonds have been voted for the rebuilding of Lower Otay Dam, there will be approximately \$1,000,000 margin of bonding capacity. And this is sorely needed for other public improvements, as well as a margin of safety to preserve the credit of the city.

The sworn testimony by competent engineers showed that the building of the El Capitan project would cost at least \$3,000,000. City Engineer Cromwell of San Diego estimated the cost at \$2,000,000, although he admitted under oath, that he had never made a survey of the reservoir site, but had taken another engineer's statement as to capacity, etc; that no attempt had ever been made to determine how deep it was to bedrock; and that no survey had ever been made for a pipeline from El Capitan Dam to the city, the distance being simply estimated. In fact, the present city engineer Cromwell of San Diego has never built a dam in his life, and certainly did not qualify as a man whose estimate is to be relied upon.

You can readily see that it will be years before the City of San Diego can possibly increase in valuation sufficiently to materially increase our bonding capacity, particularly as at the present time the Fifth and Broadway corner 100 x 100 is assessed by the City of San Diego at a valuation of \$ 270,000.00 for the bare ground alone.

Of course, a public utility is at a great disadvantage in fighting with a municipality. Here is the situation of the Cuyamaca Water Co:

We bought a property for \$150,000 cash that cost \$1,250,000 to build originally. We have put many hundred thousands of dollars into its development the last three or four years, and the State Railroad Commission of California now gives us a valuation of approximately \$750,000 which allows us only the return of our money and 7% interest. We have increased our efficiency by the construction of reservoirs and putting the property into shape; we have commenced the construction of additional reservoirs; and it seems a crime for the U. S. Government to grant this Hamilton application to the City of San Diego, for by so doing they would cloud the title to our water rights; and make it impossible for us to sell any bonds for future development; while the City of San Diego would have accomplished its purpose, and could afford to sit back and wait for years and years to come for the time when they will develop it in their own way.

If the City of San Diego were financially able to go ahead with this project, and if an emergency did exist, there might be some excuse for granting said Hamilton's application to please the City of San Diego. But if the Secretary of the Interior should grant the said application, the City of San Diego would get nothing, for it was a permit revokable at the pleasure of the Secretary of the Interior, and the City of San Diego could not sell bonds to build a dam on Government property, subject to a revokable permit at the pleasure of any Secretary of the Interior. This was demonstrated by San Francisco in the Hetch Hetchy case.

The fact is that this litigation is brought about thru the influence of a set of politicians in this city who are determined to force us to pay blood money for the sale of our system to the City of San Diego or to a District, and until such time as the City of San Diego can show that it has any right, title or interest, by a court decision, to any water rights in the San Diego River, and until such time as it can be shown that an emergency exists and the city of San Diego is able fully to finance a project of this kind I sincerely trust that the U. S. Government officials will not grant any permit to the City of San Diego or recognize the Hamilton application in any way.

Every statement I have made in this letter I am in position to prove at any time. I thank you for your kindly interest in this matter. I simply wanted to give you the facts, so that if the question comes up in any way later on where you can be of service to us, it will certainly be appreciated if you would do so. All I ask is a square deal, and I am grateful that the Secretary of the Interior has so far not seen fit to grant the Hamilton application.

I sincerely trust that Congress will not take any action on the bill introduced on behalf of the City of San Diego asking the right to flood the Indian lands, for we own the dam site and part of the reservoir site that will have to be condemned by the city before the Indian lands can be flooded; and then again the city must pay \$200,000 or \$300,000 to remove the Indians, so that it is an utter impossibility for the City of San Diego to finance this project in the near future.

In closing, it is hardly necessary for me to call your attention once more to the great injustice done the Indians by the U. S. Government if the Hamilton application is granted to the City of San Diego. The records show that the U. S. Government 22 years ago by act of Congress and by patent set aside this land for the Indians, and agreed at the expiration of 25 years to deed the property to these Indians free and clear of all encumbrance. By granting this Hamilton application to the City of San Diego, the Secretary of the Interior would repudiate this agreement with the Indians, for the Indians would have to be moved, and their homes, schools and churches would have to be flooded. They have unanimously protested by petition to President Wilson against removal.

I do not believe the Secretary of the Interior will grant the application of the City of San Diego -- even if he could do it legally, and I understand it cannot be legally done, except by Act of Congress itself.

I understand the City of San Diego is not pressing this case. I sincerely trust that we will get a favorable decision, if any decision whatsoever is made.

Anything that you can do while in Washington, by furnishing the facts, to further our cause, will certainly be appreciated.

The above refers to Senate Bill No. 5081 of the 64th Congress, First Session; also to application now before the

Secretary of the Interior for right of way, W. B. Hamilton,
Serial No. 014623, Los Angeles, Calif., City of San Diego, Assignee.

Yours very truly,

CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY,

Manager.

EF-S

84
December 12, 1917.

Hon. Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wheeler:

I received today copy of a letter from Assistant Secretary of the Interior Bradley to Wm. G. Henshaw, who states as follows:

"Commissioner Sells has but recently returned from an extended field inspection, and I have had a brief interview with him concerning the Cuyamaca Water Co., to which you refer. This matter is now having the consideration of the Department and it is expected that a report will be ready to present to Congress at the next regular session when the Committee reports upon H.R. 4037. You will be advised as soon as possible when a conclusion is reached by this Department."

Now, this means that a report favorable or unfavorable is going to bring the whole proposition to a head - and in the near future. Is it possible, Mr. Wheeler for you to find out for me the lay of the land? This matter worries me stiff. The whole thing that I would like to impress upon the Secretary is:

First. That by buying the Cuyamaca Water system, with Murray Dam completed and building one more dam at the Diverting Dam to control the water at that point, the Cuyamaca System will impound and deliver to the City of San Diego more water than can ever be impounded by building the El Capitan Dam.

Second. That we are willing to build the last-mentioned dam and then sell to the City or a district our entire Cuyamaca Water System for considerable less than \$2,000,000 and take bonds

in payment.

Third. On the other hand, the city's attempt to build the El Capitan Dam means as follows: The estimate of their own engineers for the construction of the dam and the pipeline to the city is \$3,000,000; our engineer's estimate \$3,000,000, as bed rock has never been discovered at El Capitan, and no one knows how deep it is to bed rock. In addition, the Government will have to be paid over \$300,000 for removing the Indians; the city will have to condemn the El Capitan Dam site, which we own -- also a mile of reservoir site and all the riparian rights to the ocean. The total cost cannot be less than \$3,000,000, and when they have built the dam they will then have litigation for ten years over the water rights, with the Cuyamaca Water Co.; and if they win, they will then have a less safe yield of water at a much higher cost than if they take their water from the Cuyamaca system.

The whole thing, Mr. Wheeler, is purely one of politics and graft on the part of certain individuals -- blood money, which we refuse to pay.

The city, at the present time, can do nothing but cloud the title to our property and water rights, if the request is granted. The records absolutely show that they are up to their bonding limit and could not issue the necessary bonds for years, until the growth of the city valuation warranted it. On the other hand, we have offered them any amount of water they want at 6¢ per thousand gallons, which is one-third the cost of every drop of water that the city gets from its municipal system, and the city has refused to buy this last year. It was only three

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

Form 200

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, VICE-PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

BELVIDERE BROOKS, VICE-PRESIDENT

RECEIVER'S No.	TIME FILED	CHECK
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SEND the following Telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

San Diego, Calif. Feb. 19, 1918

W. R. Wheeler,
C/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington D.C.

See telegram sent Senator Myers today urging no action be taken at tomorrow's meeting Senate Committee. Please be there Urge Senator Walsh also

Saw Mrs. Wheeler Sunday at ranch. Everything o.k. Mrs. Fletcher gave me number ten baby girl today both doing well.

Ed Fletcher.

months ago that we renewed the offer to the council and they rejected it.

I feel it is the duty of the Government to investigate and be shown conclusively that the city can finance the project before they cloud the title to our property by giving the city any rights whatsoever in the Reservation, to say nothing of the injustice that is being done the Indians by removing them after they were put there by Act of Congress and even promised those lands on the 18th day of March, 1919, free and clear of encumbrance.

Although the Cuyamaca Water Co. has never paid a dollar in dividends and has been operating for five years with an income only enough to take care of its operating expenses, we have had the courage to put \$800,000 to \$900,000 into the development of the system, and are now just completing the longest multiple arch dam in the world, 117 feet high and 900 feet in length. This dam is 89% completed, and will be fully completed on the 15th of January next. Enclosed find photos of said dam. It will take some effort for you to recognize your own picture at the bottom of the dam.

I hope you will go the limit for me in this matter, as I alone have had to fight the whole bunch down at the city hall. I shall anxiously await your reply. Is there any use, in your opinion, in my going to Washington? Can I accomplish anything? What is the number of the Senate Bill - the companion bill to House Bill No. 4037?

With kind personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Feb. 19, 1918

Mr. William R. Wheeler,
Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Wheeler:-

I arrived home just in time: Mrs. Fletcher made me a present of a nice baby girl yesterday, and both are doing well.

Enclosed find copy of telegram sent to Myers, a copy of which I sent to Senate Committee; also copy of telegram I am sending to you today.

I went up to Alpine yesterday and saw Mrs. Wheeler, and hope that I gave her some comfort. I found her in good health, and everything running nicely at the ranch. I certainly want to assist in every way possible, no matter what it is.

Also enclosed find copy of letter which has been sent to each member of the Public Lands Committee, and statement and letter of Ira C. Bennett.

Yours very truly,

EF/bm

Feb. 22nd, 1918

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Form 1204

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

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MC WASHINGTON DC FEB 20 1918

COL ED FLETCHER

Del 919 920 - 8th - 8a

SANDIEGO CALIF

REFERRING TO CLOSING PARAGRAPH OF SELLS LETTER OF FIFTEENTH I AM OF OPINION THAT APPLICATION WOULD BE GRANTED AFTER INVESTIGATION BY ENGINEER REED. DONT HESITATE TO CALL ON ME FOR EVERY ASSISTANCE IN MY POWER KIND REGARDS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS FLETCHER

WM R WHEELER

632A FEB 21

C 2600

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Wheeler:-

Your telegram of the 20th received. You are a prince and no mistake.

Enclosed find clipping showing that I gave you a boost on the San Diego-El Centro Highway proposition, and you are entitled to it.

You will also find enclosed copy of a telegram I have just sent Mr. Lanroot. I hope you approve my action in the matter, but Cogrove is so double-faced. I enclose a clipping showing telegram he sent the City Council. The City Council has certainly been misled, and I hope that this will confuse the issue to such an extent that in disgust the Public Lands Committee of both House and Senate will throw up their hands and refuse to take any action at the present.

We have had all kinds of rain here. It is raining today to beat the band. 18 inches of snow at Cuyamaca. Murray Dam has gone up twelve feet in the last thirty days.

Please keep right after Senator Walsh and have him camp on the trail of the Senate Public Lands Committee.

Send me as soon as you can a printed copy of the proceedings-- as many copies as you can get hold of.

Yours very truly,

EF/bm
encl

NIGHT TELEGRAM (Letter)

February 26, 1918.

William R. Wheeler,
Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

Largest mass meeting on water matters ever held there, took place Lemon Grove Saturday night. They unanimously endorsed position of Cuyamaca Water Company and wired Chairman Senate and House Committees asking Congress to protect Cuyamaca Water Co. in its efforts to build diverting dams.

Last night big mass meeting at La Mesa. City Council, Deputy City Attorney and City Manager present and plead with La Mesa citizens to pass no resolutions, but mass meeting unanimously turned them down and supported my request to get behind Cuyamaca Water Co. See telegrams sent Chairman committees. Please see Lenroot, and have him get copies telegrams. Tell him several other municipalities will take action in near future, and hold up any action. Wire me result of conferences. See Meyers, who wires matter will come up at Wednesday's meeting. If possible stop action Senate Committee. Send all telegrams my expense.

City Council refused to take any action withdrawing objection to building our diverting dams until City Attorney returns. We will shortly have unanimous support three municipalities and four or five towns which depend upon us wholly for water.

Ed Fletcher.

Night letter
Charge Cuyamaca Water Co.
F-S

March 5, 1918

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
C/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Wheeler:-

Enclosed herewith find statement of Mayor of the City of San Diego showing how the City is doing its work at the Lower Otay Dam. Also enclosed find clipping regarding meetings at City of La Mesa and Bostonia. There will be three or four meetings this coming week. It all goes to prove that the Cuyamaca Water consumers are behind us on the question.

Don't fail to read the La Mesa Scout interview showing the dirty tactics the city council have stooped to. Please explain these clippings to the Senate and House Committee if you think it wise.

Enclosed find clipping from Cosgrove which will be of interest.

Yours very truly,

EF/bm
encl 3

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

Form 200

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, VICE-PRESIDENT NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT BELVIDERE BROOKS, VICE-PRESIDENT

RECEIVER'S No.	TIME FILED	CHECK
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SEND the following Telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

San Diego, Calif. March 5, 1918

Wm. R. Wheeler,
Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D.C.

Telegram received. Thanks. Have wired Senator Walsh Murray will also. Mass meetings Bostonia last night unanimously supported our position and sent wires Senator Myers Congressman Lenroot. Meetings scheduled Spring Valley El Cajon Teralta and city council La Mesa. It is fight municipality vs municipality. Go the limit delay action.

Ed Fletcher

Charge Cuyamaca Water Co.

PRESENT READING OF SEC. E OF BILL:

"That the rights of way hereby granted are and shall be subject to all legal rights heretofore acquired by any person, persons, or corporation in or to the above-described premises ----

AS AMENDED:

"That the rights of way hereby granted are and shall be subject to all APPROPRIATIONS OF WATER HERETOFORE MADE AND to all legal rights heretofore acquired by any person, persons, or corporation in or to the above-described premises ----

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N.L.

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N.L.

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

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ST WASHINGTON DC 1230P MAR 6 1918

COL ED FLETCHER
43 SANDIEGO CAL

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTED BILL WITH FOLLOWING AMENDMENT AFTER WORD "ALL" SECTION THREE QUOTE " APPROPRIATIONS OF WATER HERETOFORE MADE AND TO " END OF QUOTATION ALSO OTHER AMENDMENTS INCLUDING ONE TO SECTION SIX REQUIRING DILIGENCE WILL MAIL COPY TOMORROW COSGROVE SAYS HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTS TODAY THINK YOU STAND BETTER CHANCE FOR NEGOTIATIONS AFTER COSGROVE RETURNS

WM R WHEELER

213P

March 8, 1918

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

CLARENCE H. MACHAY, President

COUNTER No.
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TELEGRAM

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M.

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company (Incorporated) transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

SEND the following Telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to.

[DESIGN PATENT No. 40529]

2-476

San Diego, Calif., March 7, 1918.

Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o Army and Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

Greatly appreciate your telegram today. Two members council already pledged to support Cosgrove's position. Dont let bill get through with unanimous consent. Meeting Spring Valley tonight will be unanimous for me. Is there any use for additional meetings? Send copy of bill in original form, also as amended, both Senate and House. Keep me posted on any action House Committee.

Ed Fletcher.

Night letter
Charge Cuyamaca Water Co.
F-S

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Wheeler:-

Yours of March 2nd at hand and contents noted. I certainly thank you for it. I wired you today a telegram to show Commissioner Sells in relation to the diverting dam. I hope you will see him and get his consent to have Reed & Reeves come to California. Let Reed & Reeves make a report, and if I had assurance, informally, that it would be approved immediately by Commissioner Sells, I would very much prefer it than to have Commissioner of Indian Affairs make a formal application and get Commissioner Sells' formal approval before letting the contract. This is my personal view of the matter, and I believe my partners will back me up in it.

Try and impress upon Commissioner Sells that the building of the diverting dam means the flooding of only a few acres of the Indian Reservation that are not and never have been used by the Indians. That it is one thing for the City to say they are going to do certain things, but when you take into consideration what they have done in the Lower Otay matter, and their state of finances, it is ridiculous to think of their doing anything in reference to water within five or ten years. We had better do it because the money is available. We will have the dam built within eighteen months and it stands there an extra factor of safety to protect the city's supply in case of emergency, or shortage of water from a period of dry years.

Thanks for the reports. Can you not get me twenty-five more? Mr. Cosgrove has not furnished the City Council any and I had the pleasure of giving them each a copy. They could not believe that Cosgrove had made such statements as have been credited by me to him. I would like to have fifty more if you can get them, and am willing to pay.

You have no idea what a hell I have been through. My wife was dangerously sick; the baby came near dying, as well, and we had four cases of measles come within a week at the house, including No. Ten, also a case of bronchitis and now one case of pneumonia. Add to that, meetings every night almost, and trying to keep up with my work, there never was such a hell as I have been through lately.

Has there ever been any inference by Cosgrove to anyone that any of the night meetings were packed? In all sincerity I want to tell you it was an open and above board, clean cut meeting in Bostonia, La Mesa and Lemon Grove, and they were unanimous for me. I meet the Spring Valley people tonight.

I do hope the sub-committee of the House will not act until Mr. Lenroot returns.

I have over three hundred letters on my desk which accumulated while I was in Washington, and which I have not even read. Add to that over five hundred exemption appeal cases. You can imagine what I have been through.

Yours very truly,

EF/bm

WESTERN UNION

Form 2589

NIGHT DAY LETTER



GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, VICE-PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

BELVIDERE BROOKS, VICE-PRESIDENT

RECEIVER'S No.	TIME FILED	CHECK
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SEND the following Day Letter, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

San Diego, Calif.
March 11, 1918

Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D.C.

Merchants Association La Mesa sent resolution to Ferris unanimously endorsing our position. See this information gets to sub-committee. Merchants Association La Mesa also wired Kettner denying any packed meeting at La Mesa. It is a gross libel. Has Kettner mentioned it? Do you advise Merchants Association wiring Ferris contradicting Br. Sampson's charge? Only ten or fifteen people in La Mesa oppose us. Friendly committee from all cities and towns appointed and will meet City Council in near future for conference. Wire status Senate and House bills now. Are they before committees? Is it possible delay in committee for few weeks yet until Cosgrove returns when City Council will unquestionably compromise. Answer.
Ed Fletcher.

Charge Cuyamaca Water Co.

copy for file

47

March 20, 1918

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Wheeler:-

Answering your fine letter of the 14th:

Enclosed find clippings which are of interest. This shows that the City Council are not backing up Cosgrove in any way, and are trying to side step the proposition. I suppose by this time you have received all the clippings in regard to Lemon Grove, Spring Valley, La Mesa, and Bostonia, showing the action taken by all four towns at mass meetings. Also Merchants Association of La Mesa.

The San Diego Sun has made a monkey of Cosgrove, his big salary, etc.

Please let me have a few more copies of HR 10587, the last bill introduced in the House and reported out favorable by the Committee. If you think it advisable I will send a copy of these clippings to each member of the committee both of the House and Senate.

Yours very truly,

EF/bm
encl

March 22, 1918

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Wheeler:-

You are a Prince and no mistake.

Will you give my kind regards to Mr. Cranston and tell him I appreciate more than I can say, his interest in this matter.

Governor Gillette said he had two or three friends in the House who would go the limit to see this did not come up by unanimous consent. Will you see the Governor, or are things in such shape you cannot, or do not want to? If not, kindly wire me and I will write him in regard to the matter.

I do hope that when Cosgrove gets back we can straighten this matter out. I have had all the surveys completed at the diverting dam, and the plans sent to the State Railroad Commission for their approval of the proposed dam. Henshaw has agreed to furnish the cement, 30,000 barrels, which will take care of Henshaw's interest and mine, so the buck is up to Murray to come through. The City will be two years building the Lower Otay Dam, and they are fighting among themselves all the time. The fact is, we can sell water to the City cheaper than it can go ahead and develop water itself, and do it in less than two years time, while they will be ten years at it, with simply one costly bill of experience and expense.

will write you a good long letter in the near future, all about evrything here.

Yours very truly,

EF/bm

P.S. See our friend Congressman Ragsdale, and tell him to come across and I will deliver the goods when he comes here.

E.F.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

Form 250

May 23, 1918.

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, VICE-PRESIDENT NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT BELVIDERE BROOKS, VICE-PRESIDENT

RECEIVER'S No.	TIME FILED	CHECK
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SEND the following Telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to San Diego, Calif., May 20, 1918.

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
Care Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

La Mesa City Council disgusted with San Diego council, and passed strong resolutions in our favor Friday, telegraphing to chairman both committees, also Secretary Lane, and mailing printed copy. El Cajon City council pass resolutions tonight.

Understand Secretary Lane on way west. Please find out when he will be in Los Angeles or San Francisco, and if possible send him word to give me opportunity interview for fifteen minutes at either place.

Ed Fletcher.

Day letter
Cuyamaca Water Co.,
F-S

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o Army and Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wheeler:

Enclosed find copy of letter sent to the members of the House and Senate Committees on Public Lands. Also clipping.

Yours very truly,

F-S

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

Form 200

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, VICE-PRESIDENT NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT BELVIDERE BROOKS, VICE-PRESIDENT

RECEIVER'S No.	TIME FILED	CHECK
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SEND the following Telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to San Diego, California, May 23, 1918.

W. R. Wheeler,
Care Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

Associated Press states House Committee has taken action, suspending rules and El Capitan bill will be taken up immediately. City trustees of El Cajon yesterday passed strong resolutions in our favor. We now have unanimous endorsement cities of El Cajon, La Mesa and towns of Lemon Grove, Spring Valley and Bostonia and Merchants Association of La Mesa. Notify our friends both Senate and House sending copies resolutions today. Will see Secretary Lane, Pasadena, tonight.

Ed Fletcher.

Charge Cuyamaca Water Co.
Night letter.
F-S

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

CLARENCE H. MACHAY, PRESIDENT

COUNTER No. _____
TIME FILED _____

TELEGRAM

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The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company (Incorporated) transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

SEND the following Telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to.

[DESIGN PATENT No. 40329]

2-576

San Diego, Calif., May 25, 1918.

Wm. R. Wheeler,
Care Army and Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

See James A. Murray, who is or soon will be registered New Willard Hotel. Do what you can to help the cause.

Ed Fletcher.

Charge ~~Ed Fletcher~~ Cuyamaca Water Co.,
Send night message or night letter, whichever cheaper.
F-S

May 27 1918

Mr. Wm. H. Wheeler,
c/o Army and Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Wheeler:

Thanks kindly for your telegram to Secretary Lane. I wired him and he gave me an interview at Pasadena. I took up with me the mayor of the City of El Cajon and also the City of La Mesa, the president of the La Mesa Irrigation District and president of the La Mesa Merchants Association and the County Farm Adviser, who all told him that the back country was unanimous for the Cuyamaca Company and against the city. I filed with him a brief together with all maps, and he said that he would make this matter a personal one and go into it thoroughly and give us an answer in thirty or forty days; that he would send the papers back to Washington and have them checked up.

Enclosed find copy of the brief which I had to write hurriedly before leaving, but which I filed with him, at his request. Kindly find out to whom Secretary Lane sent these papers and let me know what you think of the possibilities of this bill passing.

As this is my only copy of the brief, after reading kindly deliver to Mr. Murray at the New Willard Hotel.

Secretary Lane asked all of us if the City of San Diego objected to this development. The Mayor of La Mesa answered "No." In fact, I also answered the same in my brief, and we both gave as proof the sworn statements of the city Attorney before the House Public Lands Committee.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

COUNTER No.
TIME FILED

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT
TELEGRAM

CHECK

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company (Incorporated) transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

SEND the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to.

[DESIGN PATENT No. 40525]

San Diego, Calif., June 2, 1918.

Hon. Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o Army & Navy Club,
~~Washington~~, Washington, D. C.

Suggest you mail copies telegram sent you tonight to members Senate and House committees Public Lands and Indian Affairs. Associated Press Despatches state our position is on account of desire to force sale of system to City of San Diego. Have never directly or indirectly offered system to San Diego since Nineteen Fifteen.

Charge Cuyamaca Water Co.

CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY,

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

COUNTER No.
TIME FILED

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT
TELEGRAM

CHECK

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company (Incorporated) transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

SEND the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to.

[DESIGN PATENT No. 40525]

San Diego, Calif., June 5, 1918.

Wm. R. Wheeler,
Army and Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

Telegram received. Hope Bard will come through, but so far has proven unreliable. Be on your guard. Wire me Murray's New York Address, if possible. Henshaw and I have signed contract of sale our system to the Lamesa district, awaiting Murray's signature. One condition of contract is that we shall build the diverting dam to at least One Hundred Twenty feet in height, just above and off the Indian Reservation.

Charge Cuyamaca Water Co.
Night letter
F-S

Ed Fletcher.

When Secretary Lane was informed what the City Attorney had testified, Mr. Lane said that the City of San Diego under those conditions had no right to protest, and in every way Secretary Lane certainly expressed himself as very friendly to us.

I am forcing this situation for the following reason: If the Secretary of the Interior will grant this request, on behalf of the Government, agreeing not to interfere with our construction of the dam outside of the Indian Reservation, there will never be any dam built at El Capitan, once let it become public that the Secretary of the Interior has granted the Cuyamaca Water Co. this request.

The riparian owners up and down the river I find are now very friendly to us and are drawing up an agreement which they are going to sign waiving any rights they may have. When this becomes known, it will be a big factor in our favor, and when the El Capitan bill is passed it will be an egg shell.

Any courtesy you can show Mr. Murray will be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

F-S

(Copy to Mr. Murray)

June 5, 1918.

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wheeler:

Enclosed find letter from John E. Raker, together with my answer in reply.

Under separate cover, I am sending you five copies of the El Cajon Valley News. Please read both articles on the front page.

Answering yours of May 30th, the truth is I tried to get Kettner by phone and wrote him, but he refused to see me. In fact, he refused to see any representative from the cities of La Mesa/ ^{or} El Cajon, although they moved heaven and earth to try and get in touch with him.

Yours very truly,

F-S

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

A38GS S 303 COLL NL

SM WASHINGTON DC JUNE 5 1918

COL ED FLETCHER

SANDIEGO CALIF

COSGROVE WIRED BARD TODAY AS FOLLOWS QUOTE

OUR ENGINEERS ADVISE THAT THERE IS ABUNDANCE OF WATER IN SANDIEGO RIVER TO MEET ALL PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE DEMANDS OF CITY OF SANDIEGO AND CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO INTERIOR DEPARTMENT GRANTING PERMITS TO CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY IF OBJECTION TO ELCAPITAN BILL IS WITHDRAWN CITY HAS NEVER OPPOSED COMPANYS APPLICATIONS FOR STORAGE RESERVOIR SITES RECORD SHOWS EIGHTY FOUR PERCENT OF WATER OF RIVER ANNUALLY GOING INTO OCEAN A PORTION OF THIS WE WISH TO CONSERVE UNDER AUTHORITY OF ELCAPITAN BILL END OF QUOTATION

BARD AND I TODAY SAW SELLS TO WHOM LANE SENT YOUR APPLICATION FOR DAM PERMIT WE FILED WITH SELLS COPIES OF COSGROVES AND YOUR WATER USERS TELEGRAMS BARD WILL NOT URGE IMMEDIATE ACTION BY CONGRESS AND I THINK IS APPRECIATIVE OF DIFFICULTIES TO BE ENCOUNTERED IF SUCH EFFORT WERE MADE I FURTHER THINK THAT IN VIEW OF COSGROVES TELEGRAM WE HOPE TO LAND HIS GOOD OFFICES UPON HIS RETURN TO SANDIEGO TO THE END THAT A SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT MAY BE ENTERED INTO FRIENDS ON THE HILL THIS AFTERNOON AGAIN ASSURED ME THAT BILL WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO COME UP IN NEAR FUTURE AND PERHAPS NOT AT ALL

WM R WHEELER

723A June 6

(CO P Y)

P O S T A L E

NIGHT LETTER

San Diego, California, June 6, 1918.

To- Wm. R. Wheeler,
Army and Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

Glad to hear of Cosgrove's telegram to Bard. Please remember, we must not alone have assurance of City of San Diego that they have no objection to our building our diverting dams, but we must have written assurance San Diego will not by litigation oppose diversion of water so impounded. This is the key to the situation. You cannot make it too strong to Commissioner Sells and Secretary Lane. If this assurance is not given by the city, we are perpetually in danger of endless litigation.

Cuyamaca Water Company.

Charge Cuyamaca Water Co.
Night letter.
F-8

(C O P Y)

June 7, 1918.

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wheeler:

Enclosed find copy of telegram, which I sent you today - an account of the sad accident.

I certainly wanted you to send both the Public Lands Committee and the Indian Committee, as well as your friends, copies of the telegram from the La Mesa Irrigation District, notifying you that we were selling the system to the district and agreeing to build the dam, the valuation to be fixed by state authorities; also the telegram appointing you as representative of all the cities and associations, which shows a unanimous back country - and Scott Ferris a blankety-blank liar - simply a tool of Kettner's.

Please keep track of your expenses and send me a bill for same, and as soon as I can get Murray and Henshaw together I am going to recommend to them that you be paid something reasonable for your services. I have agreed in writing that the cities of La Mesa and El Cajon and the different organizations signing the telegram that you will be no expense to them as their representative.

I did have a good laugh, though, on the buck that I put up to you, and certainly you will admit it was going some to get you appointed representative of all the organizations and cities. I did it all on a Sunday.

By the way, when are you going to get cleaned up with your people in Washington? Are you going to take that job and go to Wyoming or Denver, or do you prefer to come to San Diego and take a chance with me? There is going to be a bunch of money made here particularly in real estate, if we succeed in this water development. It is looking more favorable than ever before. Do I understand that you are tied up to the first of next year?

Above all things, impress upon those people in Washington that we are not going to take any telegram or word from the City Attorney in this El Capitan matter. We have got to have a resolution passed by the City Council that they are not going to enjoin our diversion of that water after the dam is built. We would be in a nice pickle to have the dam completed and then have the city enjoin us and make eight or ten years of litigation in threshing out this whole pueblo problem.

Yours very truly,

F-S

June 10, 1918.

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o Army and Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wheeler:

Enclosed find copy of letters which Dr. J. H. Mallery, President of the Board of Trustees of the City of La Mesa, wrote to Congressmen Raker and Kettner.

Also enclosed find letter from Miles Taylor, secretary to Senator Walsh, who says that the El Capitan bill has already passed the Senate. Is he not mistaken? I am quite sure he is, or you would have known it. I wish you would ring up Taylor and tell him nothing has been done in the Senate, and have a talk with him.

Very truly yours,

F-S

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
Army and Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Wheeler:

Yours of the 13th at hand, and contents noted. I have never done any business whatsoever with Mr. Kettner, and you can tell him, with my compliments, that he is a blankety - blank liar when he makes the statement that I will fail to come through with my 1/12 interest in El Capitan damsite.

I certainly have been working under pressure and will continue to do so until the El Capitan matter at least is cleaned up.

Will write you again.

Yours very truly,

F-3

June 15, 1918.

Mr. W. H. Wheeler,
c/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wheeler:

Thanks for your kindly letter of June 7th.

I have been campaigning with Governor Stephens the last three or four days and things have piled up on me.

You can tell Sells and Reeves that the law of the State demands that no dam be built except with the approval of the state authorities, and the state authorities even pass on and accept the foundations on which the dams are built before we dare to pour any concrete.

Cosgrove's telegram about 84% of the water going into the ocean is true; but he would like to have it inferred that we are only diverting 16% of the water which passes our intakes. The fact is we are now diverting over 50% of it, and we want the rest, but there are several hundred square miles of water shed below our intakes which the City of San Diego can take advantage of by building a dam at or near the old Mission. However, there is no fight on that feature of it, so long as we win out.

I hope by this time you have mailed copies of the back country telegram to each member of the Public Lands and Indian Affairs Committees. You only mentioned having sent it to Raker, Crampton and Phelan. I feel it is very important that all these men should know that I have a unanimous back country with me, and I was leaving it to you to send a copy of the resolution passed by the City of El Cajon to each and every member of the Senate and House Committees on Indian Affairs and Public Lands; also a copy of the telegram sent to you signed by the five organizations.

Both my associates and myself certainly appreciate what you have done, and when the thing is over with, I am glad to recommend that you be paid for your troubles. Murray has maintained all the time that it was a waste of money and time; and that the city would never build a dam there anyway. However, he has urged me to make the fight, and I feel it would have been a mistake to have ever allowed the bill to pass.

From all indications, it looks as if Dr. Bard has left the state without authority from the city council, and his position is liable to be declared vacant as city councilman -- some more dirty politics.

By the way, the Provost Marshal General decided that there was no appeal from the District Board in the divinity student

cases. Since then all the divinity students are being discharged as they reach Camp Lewis, and I have won my decision. I also won deferred classification for Jim Scripps; in fact, am 100% on all my appeals.

Give my kind regards to the Madam.

Yours very truly,

F-S

June 25, 1918.

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
o/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Wheeler:

Can you get me a copy of what was House Bill No. 9499, the War Finance Committee Appropriation Bill?

I expect to get government aid for the Volcan project, including the building of Warners Dam. Our electricity when developed will save the consumption of 200,000 barrels of oil annually. I had a conference in San Francisco with the Fuel Administrator, who is going to recommend to the War Finance Committee that we get government aid. The Department of Agriculture also will recommend that we get government aid, as well as the State of California, and I may be in Washington within a few weeks in the interests of this matter.

Do you know any of the War Finance Committee? Can you give me a full list of the names?

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,

F-S

July 1, 1918.

Mr. W. R. Wheeler,
c/o Army and Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wheeler:

You will remember that when in Washington the name came up of M. Healion of San Diego, formerly manager of the San Diego Flume Co., also manager of the Lower California Development Co. As per your suggestion, I write you the following facts, as I got them from friends as well as my own observation in my business relations with him, which I am sure will be of interest.

LOWER CALIFORNIA DEVELOPMENT CO.

As manager of the above corporation, Healion has shown himself utterly devoid of ability as a manager. His absolute lack of tact and understanding of the Mexican officials, together with his arrogant, bull-headed rule-or-ruin policy, as well as his poor selection of subordinates, has been the cause of a large share of the misfortune which has befallen the Lower California Development. For many years there has been continual friction between Healion and his representatives with the Mexican officials. My understanding from the highest authority (the British Consul in Ensenada) is that Healion is scared of his life and has not been in Lower California for eight years, and Mr. Lemon a German-Swede, who was the local agent in Ensenada, has only been there once in four years.

You are probably aware that the Mexican government, in 1914, took possession of all the private property as well as the concessions of the Lower California Development, and are holding them today. The properties were put in the hands of a receiver who has today nearly \$150,000 credit in his possession in the management of the properties, although as I understand it, under Healion's management there never was much if any dividend whatsoever sent to England before the Mexican Government took it over. At one time the row between Governor Cantu and the Lower California Development Co. could have been settled for \$5000 gold, but now Carranza has taken over the concession as well as their private property.

It has been reported to me that Healion is strongly pro-German and is a member of the Clan Negal, and has been no friend of the British Government at any time. It is not generally known that after the war broke out a wireless was built on the Lower California Development Company's property by Germans and was used for sometime. Either it was there

July 24, 1918.

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Wheeler:

Thanks kindly for your telegram of June 23d. Please wire me when you have definitely decided whether or not you will come west, as I want to be in Washington when you are there, if possible.

While you never have asked for any pay for services, and have done what you have as a personal favor to me, yet I cannot let this go on without showing you in a small way my appreciation for what you have done. I have had no chance to talk with either Henshaw or Murray, but enclosed find check for \$500, as an earnest of my appreciation of what you are doing, and later on, if I can persuade Henshaw and Murray to send you another check it will be a pleasure. Kindly sign enclosed receipts and return.

I have too much gossip to write you, and hope to have a good visit with you in the near future.

Was by your ranch the other day, and everything is O. K.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

with Healion's consent, or if it was not he ought to have known that it was located there.

Healion's agent in Ensenada (Lemon) is strongly pro-German, and I am in position to prove it through the British Consul. It was the attorneys of the Lower California Development Co. who defended the Germans who built the wireless and it is common knowledge that they escaped by being released on \$3000 bond furnished by pro-Germans in California. They skipped the country after being released on bond.

I am in position to say that I would have no trouble in getting restored to the Lower California Development Co. all their private property, 30,000 or 40,000 acres, including undoubtedly their telegraph line and other personal property, but the question of getting back the concession is another matter, and pressure will have to be brought to bear, at some future time, by the British government on Mexico. Twenty of us own 47,000 acres of land in Mexico at the present time, and we are having no trouble with Governor Cantu. It is purely a matter of diplomacy until such time as a stable government is formed.

I understand the Quilter family in England controls this property, and it is a great mistake, in my opinion, to allow this property to be managed by such a type of man as Mike Healion.

LA MESA DEVELOPMENT CO., and SAN DIEGO FLUME CO.

In the matter of the management of the La Mesa Development Company as well as the San Diego Flume Co., I have no direct evidence as to mismanagement, but knowing the man and his methods, and owing to the fact that he is a heavy drinker, completely under the influence of liquor at times, together with the fact that he has taken over a lot of lands from the company at approximately \$10 an acre for which he is now asking \$200 an acre, it appears to me that it is about time that the English stockholders make investigation to find out whether or no their interests have been fully protected.

Yours very truly,

F-S

August 29, 1918.

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
o/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wheeler:

The City Attorney has made a recommendation to the city Council that an election be called to determine the question of appropriating the money for the El Capitan - at least enough money to move the Indians, but his reasons for it is that the El Capitan bill in Congress he says will be passed within a few weeks.

I wish you would take this matter up; find out if it is peacefully sleeping and if it cannot be kept that way. I would like for you to get a statement from Kettner on the subject, as well as Senator Meyers and the Chairman of the Public Lands Committee of the House. I have even forgotten his name, for I know that he is no friend of mine. (My secretary has suggested the name of Scott Ferris).

You will hear from me within a few days on the matter of olives. Don't be in a hurry to sell. The price is going to be high, and I will dispose of that crop for you to advantage and glad to do it. Have three people figuring on it. It seems to me that the only way to sell that crop is on the trees; let them pick them; take it all, and pay so much a pound for everything, good, bad and indifferent. What do you think about it?

Yours very truly,

F-S

Sept. 17, 1918.

Form 1223

CLASSES OF DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Fast Day Message	
Night Message	
Day Letter	
Night Letter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Charges (if any) \$	

WESTERN UNION

TELEGRAMS CABLEGRAMS

BY TELEPHONE FROM THE WESTERN UNION MAIN OFFICE
NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASSES OF CABLE SERVICE	
Full Rate	
Half Rate Deferred	
Cable Letter	
Week End Letter	
Charges (if any) \$	

Dated

San Diego, Calif.
Sept. 13, 1918

To

Wm. R. Wheeler
c/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

Senator Phelan wires City Council El Capitan Bill passed Senate and Kettner wires it will shortly pass house. Please wire situation. Is it not possible for House refer to bill to Committee on Indian Affairs. Expect to be there inside of three or four weeks.

Ed Fletcher.

Chg Cuyamaqa Water Co.

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wheeler:

Will you kindly send me several copies of the El Capitan bill, passed by the Senate, and oblige,

Very truly yours,

F-S

NIGHT LETTERGRAM

THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY (INCORPORATED) TRANSMITS AND DELIVERS THIS NIGHT LETTERGRAM SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS PRINTED ON THE BACK OF THIS BLANK. CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT.

COUNTER NUMBER TIME FILED CHECK

INDEPENDENT COMPETITIVE PROGRESSIVE

SEND the following NIGHT LETTERGRAM, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to.

2-669

Dec. 12, 1918.

TO-- William R. Wheeler,
c/o Army and Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

I saw Davis, chief engineer U. S. Reclamation Service, when in Washington regarding either the Government buying outright or financing building Warners project which will irrigate sixty thousand acres of land and develop six thousand horse power electricity. Davis sent here for investigation, an engineer who I believe will make favorable report. See Secretary Lane before you leave and try and find out along what lines our property can be developed. It will take about three million.

Chg. ED FLETCHER CO.

Ed Fletcher

January 3, 1919.

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wheeler:

Enclosed find copy of letter that I received from Mr. Clotts; also my answer in reply.

Will you not please see Mr. Reed immediately and explain to him our point of view? There are two things that we object to: that you cut out the clause asking the Escondido Mutual Water Company's consent, and that a clause be put in the contract giving us the right to transfer the Warners project to other parties on assurances satisfactory to the Government that the new parties are assuming all the obligations the Government requests so far as it relates to the Indian reservation.

We don't mind the \$25,000 bond if we have to pay it; although I think it is outrageous.

Anything that you can do to assist us in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

end
F-K

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nbs
Night Letter	N L

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM



NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nbs
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT
B11GS DR 92 COLLECT BLUE

300-5

3M WASHINGTON DC 6PM SEPT 25 1918

COL ED FLETCHER

C 39

SANDIEGO CALIF

Message to Mrs F Fletcher
Telephoned to Mrs F Fletcher
Time M 1590 93
By Delam Rush

WAR FINANCE CORPORATION INTERESTED IN PROPOSITION AND INDICATE READINESS TO MAKE LOAN IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FINANCE UPON REASONABLE TERMS THROUGH BANKING CHANNELS ON GENERAL PUBLIC THEY SUGGEST THAT PERHAPS PIPE LINE LAKE MURRAY TO CAMPKEARNY SHOULD BE FINANCED BY WAR DEPARTMENT ON ASSUMPTION THAT ITS USEFULNESS WILL END WITH ABANDONMENT OF CAMP PLEASE FURNISH FULL PARTICULARS COVERING PRESENT VALUE AND EARNINGS OF SYSTEM AND ESTIMATED COST AND EARNINGS AFTER COMPLETION IMPROVEMENTS CONTEMPLATED STOP TELL EDWARD TO WIRE HIS SERIAL NUMBER AND DESIGNATION AND ADDRESS OF LOCAL BOARD

Gerway New
341 War Dept

341 WAR DEPT
WASHINGTON DC

Chief Construction
Mass had
Per Brown

B + F Sts

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

COUNTER No.
TIME FILED

TELEGRAM

CHECK 227
Night Letter

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company (Incorporated) transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

SEND the following Telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to.

[DESIGN PATENT No. 40529]

2-676

San Diego, Cal.
Jan. 18, 1919

Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

La Mesa El Cajon and District sent protest telegrams. Did you receive them? San Diego City Council secretly passed resolution. I was not consulted and no arrangements made between Cuyamaca Water Co. and City. Next April four new councilmen elected out of five. Next city council cannot be bound by resolution passed by city council August thirtieth last. San Diego must in court first show it has any rights to waters of San Diego River while we have been there for thirty five years. You know governments attitude about our building at diverting dam and Conejos We are now signing agreement with riparian owners below securing consent build dam. City San Diego refuses to buy water from us at seven cents delivered city limits altho we obligate ourselves for any amount needed for ten years to come. Water developed by city from El Capitan if built will cost twelve cents. Cost of present city water nineteen cents. City has this week appropriated one hundred thousand to commence construction Barrett. Conejos dam site fifteen hundred eighty ft elevation above sea level and not less than two or three miles of any lands flooded if El Capitan dam built. El Capitan dam site six hundred ft. Height of dam one hundred sixty feet. Highest water level El Capitan Dam seven hundred sixty feet. Conejos absolutely does not conflict with El Capitan.

Chg Cuyamaca Water Company.

Ed Fletcher.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT

COUNTER No.
TIME FILED

TELEGRAM

CHECK

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company (Incorporated) transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

SEND the following Telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to.

[DESIGN PATENT No. 40529]

2-676

NIGHT LETTER

San Diego, Calif.
Jan. 16, 1919

Wm. R. Wheeler,
Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D.C.

Returned from San Francisco yesterday. La

Mesa Irrigation District wired you resolution of protest today. City Council El Cajon takes action tonight. City of La Mesa tomorrow night. If telegrams of protest not received at above wire me.

Chg Cuyamaca Water Co.

Ed Fletcher

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT

COUNTER No.
TIME FILED

TELEGRAM

CHECK
Night Letter

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company (Incorporated) transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

SEND the following Telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to.

[DESIGN PATENT No. 40529]

2-676

San Diego, California.
January 31, 1919

Wm. R. Wheeler,
Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D.C.

Any action taken by house yesterday on El Capitan Matter? Did State Engineer send you telegram also did you receive City of La Mesa protest?

Ed Fletcher

Chg Cuyamaca Water Co.

C 2600

San Diego, Calif.
January 24, 1919

Hon. Wm. R. Wheeler,
C/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wheeler:

Subject: U.S. Government consent to build
Warners Dam.

We would be satisfied if you can get a letter from the Secretary of the Interior or the Commissioner of Indian Affairs along the line of Mr. Reeves' opinion. My understanding is that he says there is no reason why a contract with the Government allowing us to build Warners Dam is necessary or in order, owing to our contract having been made with the Escondido Mutual Water Company.

Will you please get a letter from either the Secretary of the Interior or Commissioner of Indian Affairs, along this line, having the letter addressed to the Volcan Water Company or Wm. G. Henshaw?

You might inform the interested parties in Washington that the State Engineer of California has made a report on the proposed San Luis Rey Irrigation District, which includes the purchase of Warners Dam; the water to be put between Oceanside and Escondido on 43,000 acres of land. The State authorities have rendered an opinion that the building of Warners Dam will not affect the water supply of Escondido Mutual Water Company or the Indian Reservation. If you desire to get this officially, please have them write to the State Engineer, W. F. McClure, Sacramento, California, and this statement will be confirmed.

All we want is a letter from either the Secretary of the Interior or the Commissioner of Indian Affairs giving us authority to go ahead with the construction of Warners Dam.

Will be pleased to hear from you on this subject, at your convenience.

Yours very truly,

EF/bm

San Diego, Calif.
February 10, 1919
(Dict. 2/8/19)

Hon. William R. Wheeler,
C/o Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Wheeler:

Thanks for your kind letter of the 2nd. It is very comforting to know this El Capitan Bill is in all probability killed. I opened your letter in the presence of your wife who was in the office, and we had a real rejoicing here. Mrs. Wheeler could not be looking any better.

I am awfully glad to hear about Camp Kearny and have telegraphed you today regarding Warners Dam. I also sent you copies of letters sent to Weymouth and Senator Johnson on the San Luis Rey project.

We have had an exciting time of it this week; Ferdinand was run over by an automobile but is getting along nicely, and my sister had a major operation and is still in the hospital. Otherwise the Fletcher family is o.k.

I am awfully glad to see that things are shaping up for you on the Oil bill. Am snowed under-- no more for today. With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

EF/bm

February 21, 1919.

Mr. W. R. Wheeler,
c/o Army and Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wheeler:

Enclosed find copy of letter
written by Mr. McClure to Honorable Cato Sells
which will be explanatory.

It certainly hits the nail on the head.

Please go and see Sells and get things
straightened out and get a letter from him.

Yours very truly,

F-F

September 20th, 1919.

Mr. William R. Wheeler,
Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wheeler:-

Enclosed find clipping, which may
be of interest.

Yours very sincerely,

EF/LCW
Enclosure.

[1924]

Statement of William R. Wheeler

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The objection of the Indians to the building of Conejos Dam and the annexation or purchase of certain Indian lands in the Conejos Reservation by the Cuyamaca Water Company, controlled by Ed Fletcher and James A. Murray, was first brought to my attention several years ago by Lorenzo and Leno, two Conejos Reservation Indians - Leno being the policeman of the reservation.

I lived not far from the Conejos Reservation, and many of the Indians are my personal friends, and they would come to me for advice from time to time.

The definite statement was made that the money for the payment of the land to be used for reservoir purposes had been sent to the Alpine post office; that the Indians, to whom had been allotted land that was desired for this purpose, had refused to accept the compensation offered by the government, and, therefore, the land could not be used for that purpose.

The matter was discussed from time to time covering a period of years, and to the best of my knowledge the money is still resting in the post office at Alpine; the Indians refusing to accept the award made by the government.

April Twenty-ninth,
1 9 2 9

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o San Diego Union,
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

Enclosed find account of my trip across the continent that I promised you yesterday and which I hope will be of interest to you.

Don't forget - Saturday is reserved.

Sincerely yours,

EF:AK

May Thirty-first,
1 9 2 9

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
c/o San Diego Union,
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Bill:

Enclosed find policy No. 86,704 also policy of insurance No. 15,400 which was sent up to me by the Title Company and which I am turning over to you on Colonel Copley's instructions.

I understand since the deed has been recorded a new deed has been filed deeding the property to the Union and Tribune in which case it may be desirable for you to have a continuation in the name of the Union and Tribune and the insurance should be transferred from Colonel Copley in favor of the Union and Tribune.

The Colonel has promised Ed Jr. some insurance on the new building. We represent the Phoenix of Hartford and have for fifteen or twenty years and I would be the adjuster in case of loss. We carry all kinds of insurance.

Anything you can do to give us a share of the business will be appreciated.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the policy and policy of insurance.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

EF:AK

June 5th, 1929.

Mr. William R. Wheeler
c/o Union-Tribune
Union Building
San Diego, California.

My dear Will:

I want you as a member of the San Diego Athletic Club.

I want you to know something about the Athletic Club. We have been running behind in our expenses.

We have changed managers, having recently hired Mr. C. R. Evans, one of the best we could possibly get. He has been manager of the Denver Athletic Club, the Illinois Athletic and the Arizona Club of Phoenix. Both the Denver and the Arizona Club of Phoenix will increase his wages if he will come back and will take him any time.

We have had about 150 drop out since a year ago last February and I believe we have taken in about 168, so without a big effort to bring up our membership to its full quota, we cannot hope to succeed. Twice we have tried to consolidate with the Cayamaca Club and failed.

I am asking you to take a life membership for \$1000 or a regular membership \$220 and \$10 a month dues.

I am enclosing blank for you to complete and return to me if you decide to join.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely,

EF:GMF
Encl.

July 22, 1929

Mr. Wm. R. Wheeler,
San Diego Union,
San Diego, California.

My dear Bill:

Enclosed find letter from

Evans, the manager of the San Diego Athletic Club.

Is there not some way you can arrange to take out a
corporation membership?

Sincerely yours,

EF:KLM

September Twenty-fourth,
1 9 2 9

PERSONAL & PRIVATE

Mr. William R. Wheeler,
1636 Torrence,
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Will:

Enclosed find copy of statement for your information
and in the strictest confidence.

Both Barstow and Hallward called on me the other day
and in the presence of my stenographer dictated
this statement.

Please, under no conditions, bring me into this
matter.

They informed me that suit is now going to be filed
shortly.

The \$40,000 obligation of Davidson or the Bank of
Italy should not be loaded on to us.

Yours very truly,

EF:AK

October Eighteenth,
1 9 2 9

My dear Mrs. Wheeler:

You don't know how much it meant to me - the sweet gift from you alone to the Chest.

I have made the payment \$25 on the first of February, 1930 and \$25 on May first, 1930. I hope that meets with your approval. If not, please let me know.

I have been accused of everything from getting a salary of \$10,000 a year down but it is perfectly remarkable the spirit of the women and the way the whole organization has stayed by me - a power that is inexpressible but vital to our success.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely your friend,

Mrs. Wm. R. Wheeler,
1636 Torrance,
San Diego, Calif.

E
P
:
A
K

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 33 Folder: 28

General Correspondence - Wheeler, William R.



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