

Spreckels Bros. Commercial Co.

IMPORTERS, SHIPPERS AND GENERAL COMMISSION

WAREHOUSE, WHARF AND COAL BUNKERS, ATLANTIC AND G STREETS

SAN DIEGO, CAL.

STORAGE WAREHOUSE, 937 TO 943 EAST THIRD STREET

LOS ANGELES, CAL.

J. D. SPRECKELS, PRESIDENT
CHAS. T. HINDE, VICE-PRES. AND TREAS.
J. B. ALEXANDER, MANAGER
ERNEST E. WHITE, SECRETARY

San Diego, Cal. October 3, 1918.



Cuyamaca Water Company,
#916 Eighth Street,
San Diego, California.

Gentlemen:-

ATTENTION MR. L. B. MATHEWS.

We desire to thank you for your order #1788 for 200 barrels Riverside Portland Cement placed with ~~us~~ this afternoon. As soon as we are advised of car number will telephone same to you and we will order car spotted at 9th. & M Sts. on the Santa Fe spur there. As car will be billed direct to your company kindly arrange for payment of freight when car arrives and we will deduct the amount of freight from your invoice.

As mentioned to Mr. Mathews we are enclosing a pledge to cover this order which kindly sign and return.

Yours very truly,

Spreckels Bros. Commercial Co.
by

Sec. & Treas.

HEH

4-12-1m

Form 61

CORONADO BEACH COMPANY
HOTEL DEL CORONADO
CORONADO TENT CITY
SAN DIEGO ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MOUNTAIN WATER COMPANY
CORONADO WATER COMPANY
SAN DIEGO AND CORONADO FERRY COMPANY
SAN DIEGO AND CORONADO TRANSFER COMPANY
UNITED LIGHT, FUEL AND POWER COMPANY
SAN DIEGO & SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
SAN DIEGO & ARIZONA RAILWAY COMPANY

J. D. SPRECKELS, PRESIDENT
WM. CLAYTON, VICE-PRES. AND MANAGING DIRECTOR
HARRY L. TITUS, SECRETARY AND GENERAL COUNSEL
CLAUS SPRECKELS, TREASURER
D. M. WARNER, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT
A. H. KAYSER, GENERAL AUDITOR

GENERAL OFFICES:
UNION BUILDING
SUNSET PHONE, MAIN 437

SAN DIEGO, CAL.. June 12, 1918

SUBJECT:

Mr. Ed Fletcher,
1548 D Street,
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Sir:

In response to yours of the 10th inst., I am returning you herewith Mr. Keller's letter addressed to you, and am also enclosing one of our pamphlets containing information concerning our Mountain Water System.

If you will refer to page 2 of this pamphlet, at the bottom you will see a complete and comprehensive record of the rainfall at both the Barrett Reservoir site and Morena, which has been compiled by our Chief Engineer, Mr. M.M.O'Shaughnessy, from available records.

Trusting this information will be of some use to Mr. Keller,

Yours truly,

Gen'l. Supt.

September 16, 1924.

Mr. Andrew Ervast,
c/o Spreckels Bros. Com'l Co.,
San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Ervast:

Enclosed find report of M. M. O'Shaughnessy re building a gravity arch dam to the 350 ft. contour at Mission Gorge No. 5; also reports of the U. S. C. S. hydrographer Green, of April 13, 1923; also report on net safe yield of San Diego River by Mr. King, that will no doubt be of interest.

All these net safe yields are based on the seven driest years of record, but the fact remains that the average net safe yield for the last twenty years is between 50 and 40 percent more. I wish you would take this matter up personally with Mr. King and verify my statement. I am sure he can convince you that such is the case.

It seems to me that the average for the last twenty years is a perfectly safe basis for determining net safe yield for the city, owing to the fact that the city has so many different sources of supply to draw from.

If you desire to see the plans of the rock-fill and gravity arch type as prepared by Mr. O'Shaughnessy I will be glad to let you see them. You may ring up Mr. King and he will bring them over.

Yours very truly,

EF:KIM

March Twenty-fifth,
1 9 2 9

J. D. & A. D. Spreckels Company,
San Francisco,
California.

Attention Mr. F. E. Sullivan, Pres.,

My dear Mr. Sullivan:

Enclosed find copy of letter I have written to Mr. Clayton.

Please let me know when you expect to be in San Diego

I want you to take that little ride with me and I also want to talk over this matter with you

Yours truly,

EF:AK

Telephone, Main 5443

San Diego, Cal., April 19, 1929

M Spreckels Commercial Company,
San Diego, California.

TO ED FLETCHER COMPANY, DR.
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS

Cuyamaca
Pine Hills
Solana Beach
Grossmont

920 EIGHTH STREET

AGENTS
Globe Indemnity Co.
Phoenix of Hartford

Rent of following described land March 1st to April 1st, 1929

\$15.00

Approximately one acre of ground in the Northwest corner
of Lot 43, Rosedale Tract, in the County of San Diego
State of California, lying between the county highway and
the West line thereof.

April 23, 1929.

Spreckels Commercial Company,
310 - 4th Street,
San Diego, California.

Attention Mr. Claus Spreckels

Gentlemen:

Enclosed find Land Lease covering
approximately one acre of land in Lot 43 of the Rosedale
Tract, made out along the lines of my conversation and
understanding with Mr. Spreckels. If satisfactory
please sign and return and I will return a signed copy
for your files.

Yours very truly,

KLM

Land Lease

This Indenture, Made the 1st day of March 19 29.

Witnesseth: That ED FLETCHER and Mary Fletcher, husband and wife,
of the County of San Diego State of California lessor s.,
do hereby lease, demise and let unto
SPRECKELS COMPANY, a corporation,
of the county of San Diego State of California lessee.....

Approximately one (1) acre of land in the Northwest corner of Lot 43, Rosedale Tract, in the County of San Diego, State of California, lying between the county highway and the West line thereof.

FOR THE PURPOSE of operating and maintaining a ROCK CRUSHING PLANT.

To Have and to Hold for the term of five years
to-wit: from the 1st day of March 19 29
to the 1st day of March 19 34, yielding and
paying therefor the rent of Nine Hundred Dollars,
lawful money of the United States of America; and the said lessee s. promise s.
to pay the said rent in such installments and as follows, to-wit:

\$15.00 per month, payable on the 1st day of each and every month

during the period of this lease.

Said Lessee s. are hereby granted the right to remove any buildings ^{heretofore or} erected by them or put on the property by them at the expiration ^{hereafter} of this lease.

Said Ed Fletcher reserves the right to install a pumping plant on this land above described and develop water.

Said Spreckels Commercial Company hereby agrees to hold said Fletcher harmless from any and all accidents or suits for damages in relation thereto during the period of this lease.

and to quit and deliver up the premises to the lessor.... or ..his..... agent or attorney peaceably and quietly, at the end of the term, in as good order and condition (reasonable use and wear thereof and damage by the elements excepted), as the same are now or may be put into, and to pay the rent as above stated for such further time as the lessee s. may hold the same, and not to make or suffer any waste thereof, nor lease, nor underlet, nor permit any other person or persons to occupy or improve the same, or make or suffer to be made, any alteration therein but with the approval of the lessor..... thereto, in writing, having been first obtained, and that the lessor..... may enter to view and make improvements and to expel the lessee s. if they shall fail to pay the rent as aforesaid, or make or suffer any strip or waste thereof.

And should default be made in the payment of any portion of said rent, when due, and for 15 days thereafter, the said lessor..... his agent or attorney, may re-enter and take possession, and at his option, terminate this lease.

In Witness Whereof, the said parties have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

LESSORS

SPRECKELS COMPANY.

By President

By Secretary.
LESSEE.

October 16, 1929.

Spreckels Commercial Company,
310-4th Street,
San Diego, California.

Gentlemen:

On April 29th we sent you a lease covering approximately one acre in Lot 43 of the Rosedale Tract, as per conversation with Mr. Claus Spreckels. We have not received the lease signed by your firm, neither have we received any rent. There is now due on this rent \$120.00, being 8 months rent from March 1st, 1929 to November 1st at \$15.00 per month.

Please send us the signed lease and your check for \$120.00 by return mail, as we would like to get the matter straightened up.

Yours very truly,

ED FLETCHER COMPANY

By

KLM

No.

Land Lease

.....
.....
To
.....
.....
.....

DATED, 19.....

SPRECKELS COMMERCIAL CO.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN
BUILDING MATERIALS, FEED AND FUEL
310 FOURTH STREET

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

December 18, 1929.

Col. Ed Fletcher,
920 Eighth Street,
C i t y.

Dear Sir:

Referring to a form of lease drawn by your office, covering a piece of ground of approximately one acre in the northwest corner of Lot 43, Rosedale, we referred this to our attorney some time ago, and he advised drawing it again, with a few minor changes, as follows:

That the Lessee be changed to "Spreckels Company,"
That Mrs. Fletcher sign the lease with you as Lessee.
The insertion of the words "heretofore or hereafter,"
in the clause concerning the removal of buildings.

The re-drawn lease is attached in duplicate, executed on behalf of Spreckels Company.

The Spreckels Commercial Company has issued a credit memorandum to Ed Fletcher Company for \$150.00, and has charged the amount to Spreckels Company. This is the equivalent of ten months rental on this lease, and we would request that you apply the credit in this manner, in which case Spreckels Company will start payment of rental on January 1st, 1930.

Very truly yours,

SPRECKELS COMPANY,

By F. H. Soper
F. H. Soper, Secretary.

December 20, 1929.

Spreckels Company,
310 Fourth Street,
San Diego, Calif.

Gentlemen:

Answering your letter of
December 18th, enclosed find lease on the Rosedale
tract of land executed by Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher.

Yours very truly,

ED FLETCHER COMPANY

By

KLM

SPRECKELS COMPANIES

J. D. & A. B. SPRECKELS SECURITIES CO.-SAN DIEGO
HOTEL DEL CORONADO
CORONADO TENT CITY
J. D. & A. B. SPRECKELS INVESTMENT CO.-SAN DIEGO

GENERAL OFFICES
UNION BUILDING
VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

SAN DIEGO ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY
THE SAN DIEGO AND CORONADO FERRY COMPANY
MISSION BEACH COMPANY

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

May 27, 1929

Col. Ed Fletcher,
Ed Fletcher & Company,
1024 - 9th Street,
San Diego, California.

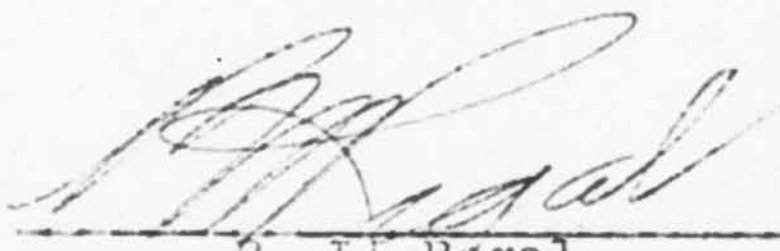
Dear Col. Fletcher:

We are sending to you herewith a statement showing the revenues and expenses and some other details in connection with the Union Building in San Diego.

This we believe furnishes you with the information you desire. If not, please advise us and any supplemental data will be sent to you.

Yours truly,

SPRECKELS COMPANIES,

By 
R. L. Regal
Assistant to the Vice President

RLR:VB

Enclosure

UNION BUILDING - SAN DIEGO

All of Lots K and L and East 1/2 of Lots A and B owned in fee
West 1/2 of Lots A and B - Leased under a ground lease

50 years June 1, 1910 to June 1, 1960

\$600 per month

Lessee pays all taxes and assessments

Lessor to pay for building at termination of lease

Average revenues and expenses years 1926, 1927 and 1928:

Rentals			\$114,801.25
Expenses			
Ground Rent	\$7,200.00		
Insurance	1,871.74		
Taxes	20,341.13		
Other	26,170.01		55,582.88
		Net	\$ 59,218.37

Assessed Valuation for year 1928-1929

Land	\$164,250.00
Improvements	80,600.00
Total	\$244,850.00
Rate	6.88
Tax	\$ 16,845.68

SPRECKELS COMPANIES

J. D. & A. B. SPRECKELS SECURITIES CO.--SAN DIEGO
HOTEL DEL CORONADO
CORONADO TENT CITY
J. D. & A. B. SPRECKELS INVESTMENT CO.--SAN DIEGO

GENERAL OFFICES
UNION BUILDING
VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

SAN DIEGO ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY
THE SAN DIEGO AND CORONADO FERRY COMPANY
MISSION BEACH COMPANY

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

May 28, 1929

May Twenty-eighth,
1 9 2 9

Spreckels Commercial Company,
San Diego,
California.

Attention Mr. Peck:

Dear Mr. Peck:

I am desirous of getting a quotation from you on the following two fertilizers, the quantity to be guaranteed as per this formula, properly mixed, in sacks, f.o.b. San Diego, maximum car quantities.

Formula No. 1

600 pounds Ammonia Sulphate
400 pounds triple phosphate
175 pounds K2O Potash
525 pounds Cotton Seed meal
500 pounds finely ground sheep manure.

Formula No. 2

The same as formula No. 1 with the exception that you substitute 425 pounds of cotton seed meal and reduce the ammonia sulphate to 500 pounds, the balance of the ingredients being the same quantities.

Trusting I may have an early reply from you quoting me both cash price on or before ten days from delivery and the best terms or whether or not you would take trade acceptances.

Sincerely yours,

EFjr:AK

Mr. Ed Fletcher,
c/o Ed Fletcher & Company,
1024 - 9th Street,
San Diego, California.

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

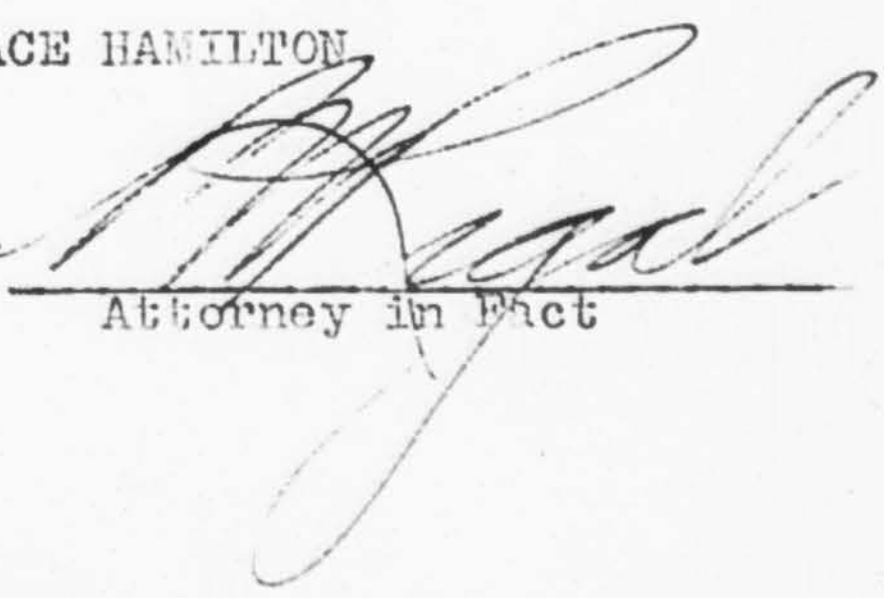
I am sending to you herewith Mrs. Grace S. Hamilton's check for \$4,375.00 payable to your order and representing full payment of commission relating to the sale by Mrs. Hamilton of a portion of Block 1, Coronado, as covered by their agreement.

Will you please indicate your receipt of this check by signing the extra copy of this letter which is enclosed so that I can send it to Mrs. Hamilton for her records.

Very truly yours,

GRACE HAMILTON

By


Attorney in Fact

RLR:VB

Enclosure

October Twenty-fourth,
1 9 2 9

Spreckels Commercial Co.,
310 Fourth St.,
San Diego, Calif.

Gentlemen:

Please deliver to Mr. West any cement and material
that he needs and charge same to my account - Mt.
Helix job.

Yours very truly,

EF:AK

December 7, 1929.

Spreckels Commercial Company,
310 Fourth Street,
San Diego, California.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed find statement
showing rent due your company together with the
credit we have applied against same.

Yours very truly,

ED FLETCHER COMPANY

By

KLM

KLM

SPRECKELS COMPANIES

J. D. & A. B. SPRECKELS SECURITIES CO.--SAN DIEGO
HOTEL DEL CORONADO
CORONADO TENT CITY
J. D. & A. B. SPRECKELS INVESTMENT CO.--SAN DIEGO

GENERAL OFFICES
UNION BUILDING
VICE-PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

SAN DIEGO ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY
THE SAN DIEGO AND CORONADO FERRY COMPANY
MISSION BEACH COMPANY

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA November 19, 1931.

Colonel Ed Fletcher,
1020 Ninth Avenue,
San Diego, California.

Dear Sir:-

Mr Clayton has asked me to reply to your letter of November 13 addressed to him, which I am doing so far as I have the information. I attach a statement briefly covering the connection of Mr John D. Spreckels and Mr Adolph B. Spreckels with the development of water in San Diego County.

With regard to suit between Mr E.S.Babcock and the Spreckels Interests, inasmuch as the principals in this matter are no longer living and it is probably not possible to state all the details accurately, we feel it best to make no comment in this connection.

We have no data whatever in this office as to the original ownership of the San Diego Union and Evening Tribune by the Spreckels Interests. No doubt Mr MacMullen would have this information and he would be the best authority on this subject.

Mr Clayton has no photographs of himself, nor have we any photographs of Mr Spreckels. Possibly Mr MacMullen might be able to help you in this.

Yours truly,

SPRECKELS COMPANIES,

By 

President.

John D.Spreckels and Adolph B.Spreckels became identified with the creation of a new water supply to San Diego and vicinity in 1894. This was in connection with their association with Mr E.S.Babcock who for some years previously had been identified with the development of water rights and purchasing control of dam sites.

Work on the original Lower Otay Dam was commenced as early as 1887 at which time a masonry base was built with the intention that it should form the foundation for a masonry dam. The cost of this structure alarmed the owners, and subsequently a rockfill dam was decided upon on which operations were commenced in October, 1894, about the period that the Spreckels Brothers became interested in the water situation. The Otay Dam was finished in August, 1897. This dam was carried away by a flood in January, 1916, which flood was due to a very heavy cloudburst. After some four years it was replaced by a concrete gravity arch type built by the city of San Diego who owned the dam at the time the disaster took place.

In 1900 and 1901 the first section of the wood stave pipe line from the Lower Otay reservoir was constructed as far as Bonita at a point on the south side of the Sweetwater Valley. A temporary connection was made from the end of this line to the Sweetwater Water Company's main. From August 1, 1901, up to and including the first few months of 1902, there were about 330,000,000 gallons of water sold to the Sweetwater Water Company. There had been a prolonged drought and it was feared that the citrus orchards would be ruined unless the necessary water to keep them alive could be secured. As the only water available

was that in the Otay Reservoir, the Southern California Mountain Water Company, with money furnished by the Spreckels Brothers, built this pipe line to save the citrus fruit growers from what looked like a ruinous loss.

The construction of the balance of the present pipe line between Bonita and the University Heights Reservoir was completed in August, 1906, and on the 13th day of August, 1906, the Southern California Mountain Water Company began delivering water to the city of San Diego under a ten year contract at the rate of four cents per thousand gallons.

The Dulzura Conduit, taking water from Pine Creek and the Cottonwood, was constructed in 1907 and 1908. It was put into operation in January, 1909. The water from this source was diverted into Lower Otay Reservoir and subsequently the conduit was used for bringing water from the Morena Reservoir to the City reservoir.

Construction on Morena Dam started in July, 1896, and was discontinued in April, 1898, until the early part of 1909, during which year work was again inaugurated and the structure was completed in 1912.

Several concerns were formed in the early days to conserve water. The Mt Tecate Water Company and other companies met with scant appreciation during their formative struggles and eventually fell into financial stress. The properties of those early companies were taken over by the Southern California Mountain Water Company which acquired reservoir sites, riparian rights, etc., constructed dams, distributing reservoirs, a filter plant, and pipe lines, all to serve water to the city of San Diego.

August 15, 1912, at an election bonds were voted to take over part of the Southern California Mountain Water Company's system for \$2,500,000.00, and to take a ten years' option on the balance of the system for \$1,500,000.00. The system was turned over to the city of San Diego January 31, 1931. On March 12, 1914, Mr J.D.Spreckels addressed a letter to the city council asking the city to exercise its option as he needed funds for the San Diego & Arizona Railway. An election was held on May 5, 1914, and bonds were voted to take over the balance of the system. The system was turned over to the city on August 11, 1914.

For the \$2,500,000.00 the city received the Barrett Dam site and the reservoir property, the Dulzura conduit, with intakes, the Upper and Lower Otay Dams and reservoirs, University Heights reservoir, Chollas Heights reservoir, nearly 5,000 acres of land, and all other rights and appurtenances necessary to the operation of the system.

For the \$1,500,000.00 the city received the water rights to the Cottonwood Creek east of Barrett Reservoir site, Morena Dam and Reservoir, more than 3,000 acres of land and all other rights and appurtenances necessary to this part of the system.

The Spreckels Bros. were vitally interested in the growth of the city of San Diego and their entering into the production of water was due to their very large holdings in the city of San Diego and Coronado. The cost of producing water was greatly in excess of four cents per thousand gallons.

In 1906 E.S.Babcock disposed of his half interest in the Southern California Mountain Water Company which interest was purchased by the Spreckels Interests.

But for the entrance of the Spreckels Brothers into the water situation in 1894 it is unlikely that any other interest would have invested the large amount of money necessary to furnish an ample supply of water to the city of San Diego which had an important influence on the building up of the population which in 1901 was about 17,000 and at the last census had reached the figure of some 148,000.

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 27 Folder: 9

General Correspondence - Spreckels Commercial Company



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