

# IMPERIAL COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSION

LIN F. SHAW, Chairman  
Holtville  
J. L. TRAVERS, Secretary  
El Centro  
Wm. J. Best, Member  
Calxico  
E. P. WATSON, Jr.  
Highway Engineer

Office 628 Main Street

El Centro, IMPERIAL COUNTY California

Oct. 23d, 1922.

Mr. Ed Fletcher,  
920 Eighth St.,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

I have your communication of October 12th, in regard to Justice Sloane and Riley, and will be glad to render what service I can to assist in their election. I believe that no doubt you can get them to assist you in procuring what we need for the best interests of Imperial Valley, and San Diego.

Our Assemblyman, Mr. Davis, was talking to me the other day in regard to the Yuma-Holtville road. He said he would like to personally go over the road between El Centro and Yuma, to be in a position to see the condition that it is in, as there might be some chance of something coming up in regard to an appropriation, or assistance in getting the road completed. I suggested to him that it might be well to get you and your Senator and Assemblyman, with himself, and possibly one or two others, and go over the entire road as he suggested. Mr. Davis seems to be a very live wire and will be in a position to help the Imperial Valley as well as San Diego, and he will be glad to do what he can for both counties, as we are interested in San Diego.

The State is now building a two mile stretch of road between El Centro and Imperial. An unfortunate affair seems to have come up, whereby a little strip between San Diego and the El Centro to Imperial State Highway is one-half in the City and one-half in the County. The City and County do not seem to have very much money, and it should have been all the State Highway, completed from the present State Highway to the city limits of Imperial. I wrote a letter to Mr. Darlington, and suggested that the City pay over to the State \$4000.00, and the County pay \$4000.00, and the City deed its right-of-way to the State, and also the County its right-of-way. This would solve the problem of having a strip of one-half mile, part of it belonging to the City and part to the County. By this proposition that I had the city councilmen and Supervisors agree on, it would give the State \$8000.00 to build a State Highway, which, if the City had taken the matter in consideration and had gotten busy, it would have thrown the strip belonging to the city into the county, and the State would have built this road the same as they are building together. I think you can readily see what

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Mr. Ed. Fletcher.

friction this is going to make, with a half-mile strip between two State Highways, one part belonging to the City and one part to the County, where there is always friction between the City and County, as to who is to have the upkeep of this particular road.

I wish to ask you, if this appeals to you as a just way, to personally assist us in this matter, by taking it up with Mr. Darlington, as you are very familiar with him in his work, and what they are doing.

We are glad to hear that the State will soon begin on the Myers Canyon grade, and widen it. I came over the Highway from San Diego a short time ago, and both grades are very rough and full of chuck-holes and sand-pits. I believe the County is neglecting their road on account of the State planning on starting this work, but there is no excuse for the State to neglect the State Highway, which has been widened, and under their control. If these two roads are kept up in first-class condition, there is no reason at all why the City of San Diego should get most of its travel through by way of Los Angeles, and around the other route, as it is a very pretty drive, and we like the scenery over the desert through the mountains, and by way of the Pacific Ocean to the City of Los Angeles.

We are also very, very anxious for the road between El Centro and Holtville. The City of El Centro is going to do considerable paving in the very near future, and possibly it could be arranged whereby the State would put in a few miles at least from El Centro towards Holtville, by using the plant which will be installed by the contractor who is lucky enough to receive the contract. The County has a great deal of waste material that could be gotten very cheap by the State, and put in black paving, which would be a great deal cheaper. It would at least get over the idea of whether the El Centro to Holtville road is going to be built now or some future time.

The north end is working very hard toward the completion of the State Highway from the San Diego intersection to El Centro, through Imperial, Brawley, Westmoreland, to the City of Los Angeles, and divert the travel that way, and there is considerable travel going that way now on account of the condition of the road in some places between the Valley and San Diego. If there is anything we can do to help further the plans of this Highway from Yuma, Holtville, El Centro to San Diego, please inform me, and we will try to get



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Office 628 Main Street

El Centro, IMPERIAL COUNTY California

Mr. Ed Fletcher.

Busy through our Chamber of Commerce, or other sources,  
as you may suggest.

Yours very truly,

*J. L. Travers*  
*W. J.*

October 31, 1922

Mr. J. L. Travers,  
628 Main Street,  
El Centro, Calif.

Friend Travers:

Answering yours of the 23d, will say enclosed  
find copy of telegram which I received from A. B.  
Fletcher, which is explanatory.

Since then I find that the highway commission  
has changed the plans, and is not going to continue the  
old contract with Oswald, but is going to ask for new  
bids. We must rush that work thru and let the contract  
before the 1st of January.

I have written to Mr. Darlington and hope that  
he will accept your proposition, regarding the highway,  
part in the city and part in the county. Your offer  
certainly is a fair one.

The highway commission is now working on the  
widening of the Myers Canyon grade below Mountain Springs.  
I agree with your letter in every particular and in a few  
days will have a suggested plan to bring pressure on  
the highway commission to complete the road from El Centro  
to Yuma. If you fellows can do any better, I wish you  
would suggest it. I will do all I can to help, but it  
is uphill work against Los Angeles influence that is  
almost impossible to overcome.

Yours sincerely,

EF:KLM



170-25  
December 17, 1923.

To the Imperial Valley Highwaymen:

San Diego is trying to assist in the construction of all roads leading to Yuma, Imperial Valley and San Diego. We have subscribed nearly \$1600 toward the fund necessary to put in the S. P. Cut-off from Casa Grande to Gila Bend, following the Southern Pacific Railroad. When completed this road shortens the distance across the continent nearly 90 miles.

This committee, Messrs. Clements, Smith and Swanzy, is composed of thoroly responsible people. All you have to do is to look at them to become convinced. They are doing a wonderful work helping us all.

This is probably the last time we will be called upon to subscribe any money for highway work, excepting the Borderland Highway Assessment for propaganda in the middle states.

Mr. Smith is the county engineer of Pinal County. Has rendered remarkable service in putting over this deal, is thoroly reliable, a competent engineer and is doing this work without compensation. I cannot speak too highly of this committee and hope that you will, for the last time, go down in your jeans and show Arizona that you are interested in helping them, for in reality we are helping each other.

This letter is written in confidence. I would advise no publicity, as it stirs up the animals in Phoenix and no good can come of it. This committee will will you what has been accomplished.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

EF:KLM

January 22, 1924.

Mr. J. L. Travers,  
El Centro, Calif.

My dear Travers:

Enclosed find copy of letter from Walter C. Smith, county engineer of Pinal County, who is building a short-cut road to Gila Bend and will have it done in less than a month.

Southern Arizona put thousands of dollars into this road. It must be completed. San Diego citizens privately gave nearly \$2,000. It is a crime if this work is stopped just for a paltry \$2000 or \$3000.

It means more to us than any road that has been heretofore built, for it shortens the distance 92 miles across the continent and follows the Southern Pacific Railroad the entire distance.

This letter is confidential, but for heaven sake get busy and send to the president of the Casa Grande Valley Bank, Mr. W. P. Clements, who is treasurer handling this fund, a few hundred dollars to complete the work. This is the last request I will ever make to you for money for road construction.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM



W. S. FAWCETT - Pres. Board Trustees  
Police and Fire Com.  
W. H. LAVAYEA - Finance Com.  
C. E. FITZER - Street Com.  
J. L. TRAVERS - Water Com.  
G. W. ANDERSON - Health Com.

# City of El Centro

EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA  
Feb. 9th, 1924.

H. L. BARKER - Chief of Police  
J. S. LOOFBOUROW - Clerk  
J. S. LAREW - Attorney  
F. J. GIANOLA - Treasurer  
V. N. THOMPSON - Recorder  
F. C. DYER - Engineer

Colonel Ed Fletcher,  
Fletcher Bldg.,  
920 Eighth St.,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Colonel Fletcher:

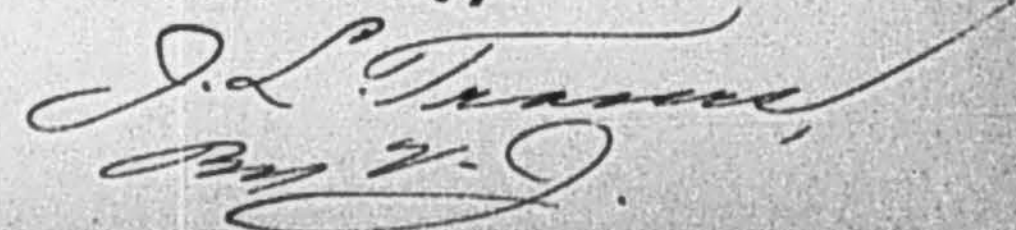
Your trip to El Centro certainly stirred some of them up in the interests of the cut-off in Arizona, as Mr. Tondro and myself have been out this afternoon and raised about \$465.00 by subscription, and we will have the El Centro Chamber of Commerce send this money to Mr. Clements at once; and we will probably go out the first of next week again to raise a little more.

Mr. Toye, the chairman of the State Highway Commission, was at the Barbara Worth Hotel last night, and we had a very nice meeting. We had men from Brawley, Imperial, Holtville and Calexico, and it was interesting to hear what he had to say in regard to the roads pertaining to San Diego, Los Angeles, Imperial Valley to Yuma. He assured us that both roads would be carried out right away.

I wish you would do me a favor, as I understand that you are sitting pretty strong with Senator Shortridge. This matter is pertaining to the appointment of our local postmaster, C. W. Collins, who has been postmaster here for years, and has given perfect satisfaction in every way, and has been recommended by our Congressman Swing of this section, who knows the conditions very well, being a resident of El Centro, himself; and President Coolidge has favored the appointment to the Senate, and I understand that Senator Johnson is in favor of Mr. Collins appointment. But some of these politicians in El Centro have taken it upon themselves to take up a private correspondence with Senator Shortridge, to appoint Mr. Carmichael, who has a very good job with the Western Union Telegraph Company, and I do not believe that his position would be any better, if he had the post-office, than the one that he has now.

If Mr. Collins should lose the post-office, he would be thoroughly out of a job; and Mr. Collins is satisfactory to the people of this community, and I feel that he should be our postmaster. Mr. Collins has always taken an active part for the upbuilding of El Centro, being a resident of this city since 1906; and if there is anything that you can do to help Mr. Collins, by taking the matter up with Senator Shortridge and explaining the conditions, it would be highly appreciated by me.

Yours truly,



February 12, 1924.

Mr. J. L. Travers,  
El Centro, Calif.

My dear Travers:

Thanks kindly for your letter of February 9th. Glad to know that you have sent the \$465. For the love of Mike, bring it up to somewhere between \$600 and \$700 and help out on this \$2,000 indebtedness! Also, will you please notify the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce what you have done, and ask them to send \$200 or \$300 as promised.

I had a nice visit with Mr. Toy, and I am sure they mean business.

Have written Senator Shortridge as you requested.

With kind personal regards, and keep me posted.

Yours very truly,

EF:AH



W. S. FAWCETT (Pres. Board Trustees  
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W. H. LAVAYEA - Finance Com.  
C. E. FITZER - Street Com.  
J. L. TRAVERS - Water Com.  
G. W. ANDERSON - Health Com.

# City of El Centro

EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

Feb. 16th, 1924.

H. L. BARKER - Chief of Police  
J. S. LOOFBOUROW - Clerk  
J. S. LAREW - Attorney  
F. J. GIANOLA - Treasurer  
V. N. THOMPSON - Recorder  
F. C. DYER - Engineer

Col. Ed Fletcher,  
920 Eighth St.,  
Fletcher Bldg.,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

I wish to notify you that we have sent \$500.00 from donations and El Centro business men, to Arizona, as requested by you, and we may be able to raise a little more if you really need it, but there are so many things that are needed, and they are working so hard on raising money for the establishment of a bureau of markets in El Centro, which will have to be financed by the business people, as the Government does not keep up the expense. I will ask the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce to notify the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce what we have done, and ask them to send two or three hundred dollars as promised, as they certainly ought to do that, when it is in their own county.

We had a nice visit from Governor Richardson, Engineer Sullivan, and Mr. Edwards, and Judge Goodsell. We had a nice dinner at the Barbara Worth Hotel, and a good large gathering for Governor Richardson and his party after they had returned from Yuma. The next day at noon at Calexico we had a large delegation there, and the Calexico Chamber of Commerce put on a large chicken dinner. I think the Governor and his party left there right after lunch and beat it back to Los Angeles by way of Brawley. They were very much enthused over the trip, and gave us a lot of encouragement on the early completion of the two roads.

I wrote Mr. Johnson, of the Lee Highway Association along the matter of these roads, and of the governor's visit, and his party, and what they intended to do, and the condition our road was in at the present time. It looks as if we ought to be able to get the road completed from Yuma to San Diego in the near future, when our chief engineer from San Diego, and Mr. Sullivan, who has charge of this territory is also from San Diego; in fact he is very much enthused over this road between the two destinations. I feel that we ought to be well pleased to have these two men in this work.

Wishing you success, I am

Yours very truly,

*J. L. Travers*  
*Mr. J. L.*

120-25  
February 20, 1924.

Mr. J. L. Travers,  
El Centro, California.

My dear Mr. Travers:

I thank you kindly for your letter of Feb. 16th. You said you had notified the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce what you had done. I assume you mean the Calexico Chamber of Commerce. It is a worthy piece of work and you will never regret putting it over and doing your share.

It will be a happy day when the road is completed, El Centro to Yuma.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM



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V. N. THOMPSON - Recorder  
F. C. DYER - Engineer

Feb. 21st, 1924.

170-20  
Mr. T. J. Worthington,  
Calexico, Calif.

*Copy*

My dear Mr. Worthington:

A short time ago, Mr. E. Fletcher, our great road booster in Southern California, returned from Arizona by way of Yuma, and we had a small gathering at the Barbara Worth Hotel, and he was so enthusiastic of what would be the greatest advantage of the short cut in saving a great many miles of road, and bringing travel through the Imperial Valley to San Diego.

After his enthusiastic talk, Mr. Tondro and myself went out and raised \$500.00 in a few hours, and sent it to Mr. W. P. Clements, President of the Casa Grande Bank, to pay the cost of the cut off at Casa Grande to Gila Bend. This subscription was made in small amounts by individuals. The little town of Holtville has raised almost the same amount.

I believe that Calexico is just as interested in this road and cut-off as El Centro is, and you are well acquainted with the conditions of this cut-off, as well as the writer, and I believe that you could take this matter up with your local Chamber and raise some money to assist them.

They seem to be doing a wonderful lot of work, and going through a territory which is not built up very strong. Will you try to see what can be done, and if you raise this money, please notify Mr. Fletcher, as he seems to be very enthusiastic to get this thing pushed along, and also to raise what they can from Imperial County, as San Diego has raised a considerable sum, and assisted them several times in a financial way along the building of this road.

With best regards, and success to the Calexico Chamber of Commerce, I am

Yours very truly,

*J. L. Tondro*

**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 13 Folder: 11**

**General Correspondence - Imperial  
County Highway Commission**



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