

File James A. Murray

We, James A. Murray and Ed Fletcher

For and in consideration of One Dollar, do hereby grant to the COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA all that real property situated in the County of San Diego, State of California, bounded and described as follows:

A portion of Lot V. of the Cuyamaca Rancho Lands according to map No. 1144 on file in the office of the Recorder of said County, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point which is N. 21°44'20" E., 1674.2 feet from corner No. 6 of Lot E. of the Rancho Cuyamaca according to the partition thereof, which corner is also the corner common to Sections 4, 5, 8 & 9, T.14 S., R.4 E., S.B.M.; thence N. 24°35' E., 260 feet; thence S. 65°25' E., 100 feet to a point on the westerly right of way line of San Diego County Highway Commission Route 8, Division 4, 25 feet distant from and opposite Station 510 + 41.3; thence S. 24°35' W. along said westerly right of way line, 260.0 feet; thence N. 65°25' W., 100 feet to the place of beginning, containing 0.6 acres.

To have and to hold the above granted and described premises unto the said Grantee its heirs and assigns forever.

WITNESS our hands and seals this 6<sup>th</sup> day of Jan'y 1919.

(Signed) Ed Fletcher

(Signed) James A. Murray

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO ) SS.

On this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1919, before me, John W. Mathews a Notary Public in and for the said County, residing therein, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared Ed Fletcher and James A. Murray known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that they executed same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal at my office in the Co. of San Diego, State of California, the day and year in this Certificate first above written.

John W. Mathews

Notary Public in and for the County of San Diego, State of California.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF ) SS.

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1918,  
before me, \_\_\_\_\_ a Notary Public in and for the  
said County, residing therein, duly commissioned and sworn, person-  
ally appeared \_\_\_\_\_  
known to me to be the person whose name \_\_\_\_\_ subscribed to the  
within instrument, and \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledged to me that \_\_\_\_\_ executed  
the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set  
my hand and affixed my  
official seal at my  
office in the County of  
\_\_\_\_\_, State of  
California, the day and  
year in this Certificate  
first above written.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for  
the County of  
State of California.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF ) SS.

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1918,  
before me, \_\_\_\_\_ a Notary Public in and for the  
said County, residing therein, duly commissioned and sworn, person-  
ally appeared \_\_\_\_\_  
known to me to be the person whose name \_\_\_\_\_ subscribed to the  
within instrument, and \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledged to me that \_\_\_\_\_ executed  
the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set  
my hand and affixed my  
official seal at my  
office in the County of  
\_\_\_\_\_, State of  
California, the day and  
year in this Certificate  
first above written.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for  
the County of  
State of California.

January 16th,  
1920.

James A. Murray,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Murray:

In answer to your inquiry as to whether the taxes have been paid on the J. J. Henderson land at El Capitan, beg to say that the 1919 taxes are unpaid. These amount to \$10.09, plus 75% penalty, or a total of \$10.84. Prior to this the taxes are all paid.

The following is the legal description of the land:

	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>Ac.</u>	<u>Val.</u>	<u>Impts.</u>
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	5	15	3 E 40	\$50		
N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	8	15	3 E 80	100	\$100	
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	9	15	3 E 40	50		

Yours very truly,

CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY

Secretary.

LBM:EF

19 January 1920

Mr. Jas. A. Murray,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Murray:

Referring to our conversation yesterday, will say I think it highly important that we get final legal opinion as to our rights on the San Diego River. The situation is as follows:

We made our water filings on the San Diego River 30 years ago, and a new filing on the 1st of June, 1910, claiming ownership of all the water in the San Diego River that passes that point, however, we have never diverted at all times of the year all of the water, and during flood times, billions of gallons of water, which we could not divert owing to the small size of our flume, has passed over our dam and gone to the ocean.

We have allowed this condition to run on and in the meantime large riparian owners below have installed pumping plants and now the City of San Diego proposes to build a dam below us, to conserve these waters that are now going to the ocean, and which we never could conserve unless we built dams on the river.

My contention is that the City of San Diego, or any private individual who makes a water filing and builds a dam below us can forever bar us from building any more dams on the San Diego River and will be sustained in court.

You claim that you own all the water that originates at our point of diversion, and only have as proof a water filing. My contention is that ~~when~~ such water as we put to beneficial use do we own and can never be taken away from us. We are sleeping on our rights in not immediately building the dam at the Marcks site, also the Conejos. The very fact that the City of San Diego is now planning to build El Capitan dam, and is making explorations for bed-rock with a core drill can be shown as evidence of their good intention to build. If we get busy immediately and get to building a dam, or dams, at our points of diversion, we can show undoubtedly that we have, with due diligence, protected our water filings of June 1st, 1910, for the reason that we have spent from

\$35,000 to \$100,000 a year, each year, enlarging our system doubling the capacity of our flume from ten to twenty million gallons daily, built Murray dam at the end of our flume, and increased its storage capacity four or five times, but, we have done nothing the last twelve months to enlarge our system, except some development work on our distributing line, and my opinion is that if we sleep another few months on our rights, and do not commence active construction, and if the city steps in, or any private individual, and builds a dam below, we will have nothing but endless litigation in court, and in the long run my private opinion is we will lose.

We only own about one-half the riparian rights below our dam sites, and the rest of these rights on the river should be acquired on the line of our contract with Mr. Thum, whereby Thum gives his consent to our building dams, and we agree to pay any damage which the Water Commission may determine, if said damage is caused by the shortage of water, owing to the construction of the dams that we may build. It would be a hard matter to prove that the construction of these two dams would effect the shortage, or in any damage the riparian owners below, so our chance of paying damages are mighty small, however, I want to again impress upon you the fact that we have no time to lose - that we are sleeping on our rights, and that within the next few months, either the City of San Diego thru means of an irrigation district are going to buy our system, or else they will start independent of us on El Capitan Dam, or on the Gorge, and they will eventually beat us out.

Yours very truly,

EF:KIM

January  
Thirtieth  
Nineteen  
Twenty

Mr. Jas. A. Murray,  
Butte, Mont.

My dear Mr. Murray:

By the payment of \$1,000, I can tie up the Marcks damsite for six months more and apply it on account, if we purchase it - 160 acres for \$8,000. This, as you know, includes all the houses, barns and improvements, and all water rights, and is cheaper than if we had to condemn it.

Mr. Henshaw and I have already paid \$1,000 down. I want your consent to have the Guyamaca Water Company to pay another \$1,000 down and tie this up for another six months until we see how this district goes ahead. I have strong encouragement that the City Council are willing to sign up a five year contract for three million gallons of water a day, at 10 cents a thousand gallons, or \$300.00 a day. Mr. Henshaw and I are willing to borrow the money at 7%, if you care to loan it to build the Marcks dam, or we can borrow it on the outside, and put the entire property as security for probably 6%, but if we can get a five year contract from the City, that will bring in \$300.00 a day, it will warrant us building the Marcks dam immediately, for our income would be \$500,000 for the five years, while the total cost of the Marcks dam, 110 feet high, will be roughly \$300,000.

Please let me hear from you by return mail as to whether or not it is advisable to continue keeping a hold on this Marcks damsite. The payment must be made before the 20th of February.

Yours very truly,

EF:KIM

February  
Ninth  
Nineteen  
Twenty

Mr. Jas. A. Murray,  
Monterey, Calif.

My dear Mr. Murray:

The City Council has ordered an investigation of the possibilities of pumping water from Tijuana River. Enclosed find clipping. The Water Commission, however, have jurisdiction in this matter, and they believe that instead of putting any more money into pumping plants, they should encourage the Cuyamaca Water Company to develop its supply and make a five year contract with them.

If we can get a five year contract for two or three million gallons of water a day at 10¢ a thousand gallons, or better, this would mean an income of \$200 or \$300 a day every day of the year, and even the sale of two million gallons of water a day at 10 cents a thousand gallons gives us enough money in five years to more than pay for the cost of a dam. If we can get this contract, the minimum being two million gallons a day at 10 cents a thousand gallons, and as much more as I can, are you willing to make a loan for five years, with the entire property as security, first mortgage, in the sum of \$300,000 or \$350,000, 7 percent interest? Or will you join in with us in borrowing \$350,000, putting the property up as security. I know I can get the money at 7%, and I think I can at 6%.

I must have an answer immediately in order to lay my plans and get the city to agree to it, rather than go and install additional pumping plants in Tijuana River.

Am glad to inform you that the formation of the irrigation district is proceeding rapidly. The Water Committee of the Committee of Thirty have unanimously agreed to go ahead, their plan being to take in both the Volcan and Cuyamaca Systems, and eventually the Sweetwater and the city's system, so as to have one big

Page Two

Jas. A. Murray

municipal district, but it is going to take two years to get the district organized, vote the bonds and get them approved. In the meantime, there is a shortage of water here, and something must be done immediately.

Cuyamaca Lake has gone up 3-1/2 feet, but the city's reservoirs are not gaining any. We need rain, and badly, but I am sure we are going to get some good rains anyway the rest of the season that will help out our supply. Even if it did not rain another drop, we can take care of our consumers and give them a full supply by pumping, and we will certainly have two or three rains that will give us a surplus to sell to the city.

The final hearing of the Railroad Commission is on the 25th of February, and we will get a decision next month without fail. The concrete Sweetwater siphon is in very good shape and working satisfactorily with three or four minor leaks.

Will you please write me a letter by return mail letting me know where you stand in the matter of building a dam and making a contract with the city, and greatly oblige

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

(Dictated Feb. 7th)

municipal district, but it is going to take two years to get the district organized, vote the bonds and get them approved. In the meantime, there is a shortage of water here, and something must be done immediately.

Guyamaca Lake has gone up 27 feet, but the city's reservoirs are not getting any advantage of any rain

10 February 1920

Mr. Jas. A. Murray,  
Monterey, California.

My dear Mr. Murray:

Scripps and his wife own three miles of riparian rights on the San Diego river.

I sent him a copy of the F & W. Thum Company agreement and asked him to sign a similar agreement. Enclosed find copy of Mr. Scripps' reply, which I consider very friendly indeed.

One plan which Mr. Scripps refers to was for the installation of pumping plants to furnish the city with water. Jones of the Gas Company was behind this, and it would put a crimp in us temporarily.

Any contract we get out of Mr. Scripps not only gives us something, but it keeps him from fighting us if we ever built a dam on the San Diego river, so I have written Mr. Scripps to go ahead and draw up a contract, submit it to us for our approval.

I feel satisfied that if it came to a show down, Mr. Scripps would loan us the money to build the major dam on the San Diego river.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

February 12, 1920

(Dict. Feb. 11)

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Monterey, California.

My dear Mr. Murray:

Enclosed find clipping from last night's paper.

I am sorry you have not answered my inquiry regarding putting in a dam on the San Diego River for if you do not care to finance it I am satisfied I can get the money to build the dam and feel quite sure I can get a five year contract from the City at 12 ¢ per 1000 gallons for two or three million gallons per day, which will more than pay for the dam. Not alone that, but it makes us stronger on the San Diego River and eliminates any possibility of El Capitan ever being built.

In the mean time, they are seriously considering building El Capitan. Enclosed find article from this morning's UNION which is explanatory. That means endless fight and litigation. A big committee of citizens have gone up to El Capitan today.

I hope to get a letter from you by return mail that you will advance the \$350,000 to build the Marcks dam, or will be willing to borrow the money. I have had word from Mr. Henshaw that he approves of the construction of the dam if we can get a satisfactory contract for five years from the City.

Yours very truly,

EF/bm  
encl 2

MONIDAH TRUST  
BUTTE, MONTANA

Butte, Montana, February 17, 1920.

Ed Fletcher,  
San Diego,  
California.

Dear Sir:

I received your telegram of the 16th relative to the dams. I expected a telegram in relation to the sale of Murray Hill, but it's a telegram anyway.

Now if the City cares to put up pumps on the Tiajuana river let them go ahead; they might be foolish enough to do it.

In relation to Hodges Dam, I think you made a mistake in calling it Hodges Dam; you should have called that the Volcam Dam. Naming dams after men is a very poor policy, and I am superstitious about it. Had no business to call that the Murray Dam; should have called it La Mesa Dam, and maybe will change it to La Mesa after a while. Murray Hill dam is so small it makes no difference what it is called.

If we should building a dam on the San Diego river at the Marks place or higher up, it shall be named the San Diego dam, which I think will be very appropriate as the people in San Diego would take some pride in it, and it would become a show place.

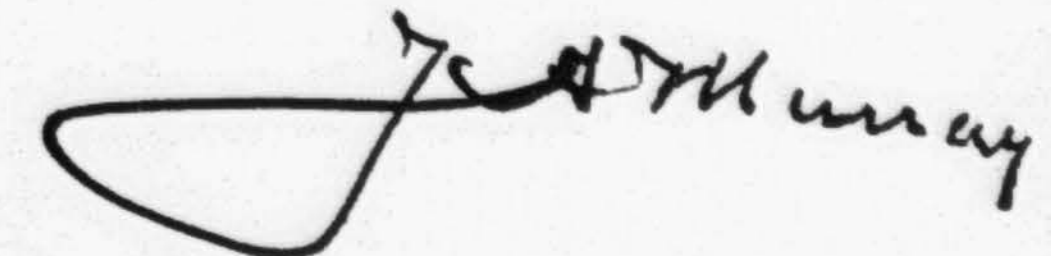
A man with one eye can see through all your propositions. You remind me of that bird that sticks his bill in the sand and thinks he is covered up. Your portion of the four or five hundred thousand and Mr. Henshaw's portion wouldn't buy a good breakfast for a sick woman, therefore you make all kinds of promises and lavish propositions.

And you say in your telegram that an answer is absolutely necessary. In answer will say, let everybody do their worse.

I believe I wrote to you once not to take any option on the Marks Place, nevertheless you went on and took an option, and if you have to forfeit that money, it will teach you a lesson, however, those things are none of my business, and I am not ready to do anything at present or say anything.

Very truly,

JAM/RBL



Form 1206

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

RECEIVER'S NO.
CHECK
CASH OR CHARGE
TIME FILED

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED
TELEGRAM
DAY LETTER
NIGHT MESSAGE
NIGHT LETTER

Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired; OTHERWISE THE MESSAGE WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FULL-RATE TELEGRAM

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

San Diego, Calif.  
Feb. 16, 1920

James A. Murray,  
Butte, Montana.

If can get five years contract from City two or three million gallons daily every day of year at twelve cents thousand gallons will you put up your share of the money to build Marks dam costing not to exceed three hundred fifty thousand if Henshaw and I put up our share? Or will you make loan of entire amount seven percent interest. If not satisfactory can I borrow money at seven percent for five years with Guyanaca Co. holdings as security first mortgage. City contract will pay for dam in less than four years. Immediate answer absolutely necessary otherwise danger city installing pumping plants Tiajuana River. Hope you are feeling better.

Ed Fletcher

Chg Guyanaca Water Co.



MONIDAH TRUST  
BUTTE, MONTANA

P. S. You say the rate hearing is to come up on the 25th. Now of course, we will get a raise, no doubt about that, for irrigation water because we are furnishing it for nothing at the present time, but I think it would be advisable for you to make different arrangements for use of domestic water. I am paying 40¢ a 1000 gallons in Monterey where they have plenty of water, and it does seem to me that you can do much better, and that the Commission would be more liberal with us where water is as scarce as it is in southern California. Give this your attention without fail. That running scale that you have in the use of domestic water does not suit me. It is a bad proposition at best.

If you send any more long-winded telegrams, don't charge any part of them to me, because you can write a letter and it will cost only 2¢.

February 18, 1920

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Butte, Montana.

My dear Mr. Murray:

Enclosed find article from the San Diego SUN.

It would look as if they were switching to the Mission dam site. The dam site is owned by the La Mesa, Lemon Grove, & Spring Valley Irrigation District, who want \$66,000 for it -- what they paid for it. The City officials have lately had a conference with the Lemon Grove people in relation to negotiating the purchase of the dam site. How much there is in it, I do not know, but I do know that if we do not crystalize sentiment and get a contract out of the City, and build a dam on the San Diego River in the near future, we are going to get left as far as our surplus water from the San Diego River is concerned, and our only water rights will be for the amount of water we have diverted in the past. This means that we are giving away over 50% of our water supply which we could conserve right at our diverting dams if only the dams could be built.

Yours very truly,

EF/bm  
encl

Butte, Montana, February 19, 1920.

Edward Fletcher,  
San Diego,  
California.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 16th at hand containing Mr. Crouch's letter. Mr. Crouch is pursuing the right course, and if we get beat, we will take our medicine, but wont give up until we have to.

I note what you say again about the dam. Damned if you "ain't" a good one. If persistence, perserverance and oil will get you there, you're there right now, but I am on that line myself some, but, of course, I can't hold a candle to others when it comes to persistence.

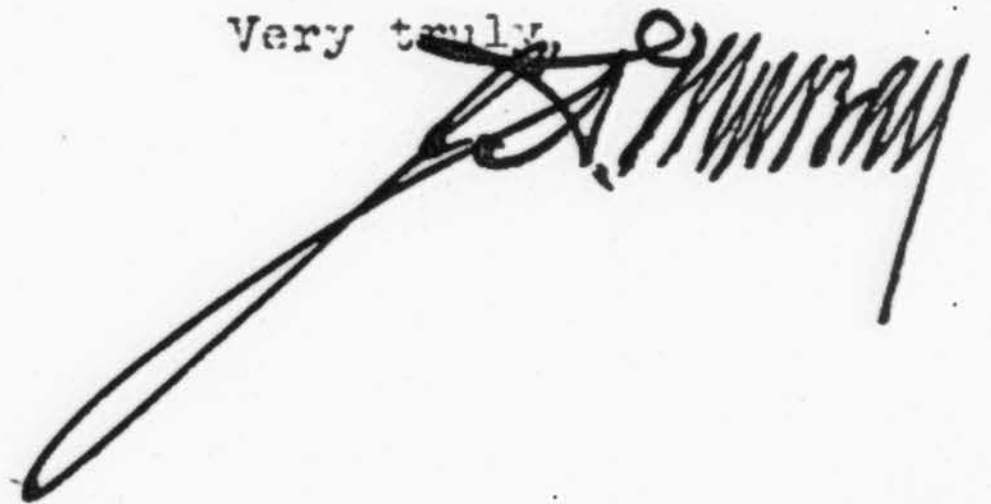
When you speak about weather, I was down town without an overcoat this morning; an overcoat is superfluous here as the weather is as nice as it is in San Diego, but not so much of it.

I have a lawsuit in Pocatello on the 25th and one in Seattle on the 15th of March. I must attend to the one in Seattle as it is quite important. After that I will go south. A letter will reach me within the next ten days C/o American Savings Bank & Trust Co., Seattle.

I note that the gentlemen are getting a move on themselves in relation to pumping water and one thing or another. We can't get too much water in San Diego. I am in favor of all dams and dam quick too, that is, if it doesn't take any of my "mezuma".

--Fletcher-2-

I wish they would build El Capital Dam to see how much the Dam Commission would allow us for damages. Of course, I value the damsite at \$25,000, no matter what we paid for it, and if they don't pay us \$25,000 for it, we will have a lawsuit, but, of course, they don't care about lawsuits as the taxpayer is the "goat".

Very truly,  


JAM/RBL

*Reparum rights 200000*  
*pumping plant*

---

February 23rd, 1920

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Butte, Mont.

My dear Mr. Murray:

I am in receipt of yours of Feb. 17th, and contents noted. I sent that telegram in relation to building the dam on the San Diego River at the request of the city officials. You are certainly on the wrong track this time, and probably did not fully understand the offer.

The offer is such that you would get back the entire cost of the dam in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  or 4 years, by the sale of water, and in addition to that, you would still have your dam, and you would also get an increased valuation of a half million in water rights which we will otherwise lose.

To put it another way: by spending \$350,000, we get back nearly \$500,000 in five years. We still have our dam, and we get full value for it, and owing to having conserved an additional amount of water, we would get an increased valuation to the extent of at least a half million, in my opinion for the additional water right, as well as forever eliminating any chance of litigation with the City.

It is such a good proposition that if necessary I was willing to borrow the money on my life insurance to put up my part of the cost of the dam, and Mr. Henshaw would raise his part.

This is the first time in my life that I have ever seen you fail to appreciate the psychological moment, and pass by an opportunity of a lifetime. With that dam built there is no question about the City taking over our system when the Municipal District is formed. I know that I am right in this matter, and that it is the opportunity of a lifetime. The State Engineer will be compelled to value our property at two

Page Two

million or more, with that dam built. Before I ask you to put up a dollar to build this dam, I will have a written commitment from the City officials that they are willing to contract for 3,000,000 gallons of water a day for five years, every day in the year, at 12 ¢ per 1000 gallons: as legal a contract as can be made.

As sure as the sun rises and sets, if you don't accept this proposition, either Spreckels will put in pumping plants in the Tia Juana River and go to selling water to the city, or the City will do it themselves if we don't do business with the City, and get busy by the 1st of next April.

Hodges Dam was called Hodges Dam with the approval of President Ripley of the Santa Fe Railroad, and no one has ever objected to the name of Murray dam. I don't give a damn what they call the next dam. San Diego dam is good enough for me, but I want to see it built.

The rate hearing comes up tomorrow for final decision. It will probably take three or four days, and we will get the decision next month. I shall certainly do all I can to get the increase in revenue along the lines you suggest..

We have had a good rain. Cuyamaca Lake has gone up 5 feet, and the San Diego River is running to the ocean carrying, according to official records, 600,000,000 gallons every 24 hours. We have had over 20 inches of rain at Cuyamaca this season, and if we had had a dam built at the Marcks site we would already have caught over 3,000,000,000 gallons this season. The City is measuring the water below, and I do not blame the City if they decide to build a dam lower down in case the Cuyamaca Water Company fails to act. But it will mean endless litigation.

The Municipal Water District is going through, without a question of a doubt, but there is a conflict now over the boundaries. That will be settled this coming week, I expect, and we will have an election to form the District in a few months, but it is going to take a year or more to get it finally settled.

Page Three

Please read this letter over carefully. I do not ask anything of you until I can bring you a contract satisfactory to your attorneys, that the entire cost of the dam will be repaid within 3½ or 4 years, and then I am asking you to put up your part and we put up ours. Or, if you do not want to put up any of it, I have a man who will lend the money to build the dam, and take a first mortgage on the property for five years at 7% or possibly 6%.

Mr. Murray, if you ever had any confidence in me whatever, I urge you to take this matter seriously. It is the opportunity of our lives, and I hope to get a favorable reply from you by return mail.

Yours very truly,

EE/bm

24 February 1920

Mr. James A. Murray,  
American Savings Bank and Trust Co.,  
Seattle, Washington.

My dear Mr. Murray:

I received your letter from Butte, Montana of February 19th. When you write to me that you value the El Capitan Damsite at \$25,000, I commence to believe that you are losing your grip and nerve.

The price is ridiculously low. As far as I am personally concerned, I would not sell it for any price until they paid us at least half million dollars, and for the following reasons:

The El Capitan damsite is the key to the situation. You sell El Capitan damsite for \$25,000, and the City goes ahead and builds the dam, and you have endless litigation ahead of you, as well as a big damage being done to the present Cuyamaca System.

The building of El Capitan dam will shut off the underground water supply for our El Monte Pumping plant now installed and owned by the Cuyamaca Water Company.

In addition, we have acquired thru the old San Diego Flume Company riparian water rights of diversion for over half of the river, from El Capitan dam to the ocean. I discovered this by looking up the court records in the court house. These riparian rights of diversion are worth at least \$200,000.00. It has cost Henshaw over a million dollars to get the same riparian rights on the San Luis Rey. We have the right to pump 3,000,000 gallons of water a day from the El Monte Pumping plant in time of necessity, and that water right alone is worth from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

It would be perfectly foolish for us to sell the El Capitan damsite and reservoir site that we own, without being paid a handsome price for the damage to us in the

April  
Seventh  
1920

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Monterey, California.

My dear Mr. Murray:

Am feeling fine. My temperature is normal and am able to answer all my mail daily. The remarkable thing is I have not had a fester from any of my numerous bruises. They put a six inch plate, and about twenty screws in my leg, screwing the plate to the bone to join it together, and it is doing fine, and I will be as strong as ever. Of course, it is pretty mean now, but the meanest part of all was that when I woke up from the second operation I found they had put me in a cement water pipe. What do you think of that? Am able to see all callers and will have the Governor here tomorrow - the guest of honor.

Laying all joking aside, Mr. Murray, I have gotten better control of myself, and if I continue as well as I am now, it is just possible I can be out on crutches in four to six weeks.

The City Council unofficially came out in favor of buying the Lake Hodges System, and building El Capitan. The reason for this is they are in a fight to the death with the water commission. The water commission have come out flatly for the municipal water district and taking over the Cuyamaca System and Henshaw's system. The last conference I had, Mr. Hodges said he did not care to sell the San Dieguito System to the City. There have been several meetings and the municipal water district forces are coming out strong in favor of the district. The Sun came out with a strong editorial yesterday. Enclosed find clipping.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

El Monte Pumping plant, and for the riparian rights which we own below the El Capitan. In addition to that it will cost \$125,000.00 to recompense us for the damage done by the flooding of the South Fork and the Chocolate siphons and our pumping plant, when El Capitan dam is built, for we would have to go back and build new flumes around where the old wooden flume was, for when El Capitan dam is built, the water will be within 20 feet of our present flume when the dam is filled to the spillway.

Then, again, we should compel them to build a county road up along the flume so we could get to our diverting dam.

There are a lot of things to take into consideration, but all of this controversy can be settled by the building of the diverting dam and making a contract for five years with the city. I hope you will take under serious consideration my letter of February 23d, in relation to the building of a dam and making a five year contract with the City for water, which contract, of course, the municipal water district will assume, as well as paying us for the building of the dam and a handsome profit on additional water rights acquired when we sell to the municipal water district.

Yours very truly,

EF:KIM

April  
Nineteenth  
Nineteen  
Twenty

My dear Mrs. Murray:

It was lovely of you to write as you did,  
and I certainly enjoyed the letter.

For a few days it was certainly "going some",  
and I didn't care much whether I lived or not, but  
I am feeling better every day. My appetite is coming  
back. The pesky part of the whole business was that  
ten or twelve abscesses came on my head and neck and  
had to be cut open, until my very sensible and good  
looking nurse decided that a hot water application  
was better and she has done the rest herself. Yes,  
I am very well cared for with nurses.

Everything is going along nicely here - the  
big water district is gradually being formed, the  
City Water Commission have come out in favor of the  
water district buying the Cuyamaca, Volcan and Lake  
Hodges Systems, the valuation to be put on all the  
properties by the State Engineer. The valuation has  
already been put on the Cuyamaca, which will give us  
a good profit, but that valuation was based on  
irrigating supply, but one based on a municipal supply  
I believe will be increased \$500,000 more. It will  
take some little time to complete it, but will all  
work out nicely.

I had no idea I had so many friends. It has  
been perfectly marvelous the flowers and offers of help.  
The joke of it all is that Mayor Wilde, who has been  
fighting the Sun and E. W. Scripps so viciously sent me  
at least \$10.00 worth of flowers and the following  
message: "For Christ's sake, get up quick - no other  
man more needed". A few hours later Mr. Scripps sent  
word thru his physician, who is also mine, and his  
message was; "I don't give a damn whether it is a man  
living in Coronado or San Diego. Let them all die, but  
save Fletcher". Is it not laughable to get the two  
extremes?

I will be up and on crutches in three weeks,  
but have been able every day, but one, to handle my mail,  
and give dictation to my stenographers, so you see I  
have been very fortunate.

Sincerely yours,

EF:KIM

Mrs. J. A Murray  
Monterey, Calif.

April  
Twenty-second  
Nineteen  
Twenty

Mr. James A Murray,  
Butte, Mont.

My dear Mr. Murray:

The committee of seven unanimously  
decided to go ahead with the formation of the  
water district today, and the Committee of  
Thirty will unquestionably approve this  
recommendation.

What size the district shall be is the  
only thing at issue. Jones and Spreckels stand  
pat on a district that does not include the  
Linda Vista Mesa, but the boundaries of the  
district will finally be settled at a conference  
between the City Water Commission, City Council  
of San Diego, East San Diego, and La Mesa, and  
Board of Supervisors. Am not doing any bragging,  
but I hope to get away with it.

Was moved home today, and hope within  
three weeks to be on crutches. Let me tell you  
this is no picnic.

Yours very truly,

EF:KIM

Dictated over the phone

April  
Thirtieth  
Nineteen  
Twenty

(Dictated April 29th)

Mr. Jas. A. Murray,  
Butte, Mont.

My dear Mr. Murray:

Enclosed find contract signed by Mr. Henshaw and myself, with the El Monte Ranch Company known as the Timken crowd, whereby they give their consent to our building all the dams we want to up above, and will not interfere with the building of any dams we might want to build.

It is a contract along the same lines as the Thum contract. It costs us nothing, and it is really valuable to us, if we ever want to build, or sell, in showing that we made an adjustment with the riparian owners below, and I want to get out of the way - Thum, Timken and maybe Scripps. I expect to get Scripps signed up in a few days without costing us a cent; then all of the little fellows will line up without any trouble.

Will you please sign these and return immediately, so as not to take any chance of having these fellows change their mind. The contract is in duplicate. Please sign both where Henshaw and I have signed, if it meets with your approval. The El Monte Ranch Company have already signed, but I want to get these on record. It will have a great influence in settling all these riparian owners below.

If I could have done the same thing as this for Henshaw on the San Luis Rey River and handled it in this way, I could have saved him a million dollars in cash.

Am feeling better and the doctor says I will be out on crutches in two weeks.

Tomorrow the Committee of Thirty will probably start in motion the wheels to form the big municipal water district. The water committee have already voted unanimously and favorably. I hope to have some good news to tell you next week.

Murray Dam is over 90 ft. We will probably

June 21, 1920

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Monterey, California.

My dear Mr. Murray:

Enclosed find clipping from the Union showing the municipal water district is going ahead. The petitions will be circulated this week, all as per your understanding with the committee when in San Diego, and by the 1st of July, the petitions will probably be in the hands of the supervisors.

There is an understanding with the business men that the water district will take over the Cuyamaca and the Volcan Systems.

There is a clique, however, including Savage, the engineer, who has determined that El Capitan dam-site is A 1, and has unofficially recommended that that be the next dam built, however, there are very few people that want to see the city make any more development; instead it is practically unanimous that the water district be left to handle that question, all as programmed between us.

Have been up to Warner Hot Springs for two weeks. Am feeling much better, but will be on crutches for some little time.

I expect to be selling some water to the city in the near future, for a month or two, anyway.

Have not had any decision from the Railroad Commission yet, but know they are working on the case for they sent a telegram down asking for information the other day.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM



Page Two

get 92 or 93 feet. Lake Hodges is 6-1/2 miles long with 93 ft. of water. The city has not caught as much water as it did last year.

With kind regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

EF:KIM

June  
Twenty-third  
Nineteen  
Twenty

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Butte, Mont.

My dear Mr. Murray:

Am back from Warner Hot Springs and feeling better, and on the job part of the time each day. Can ride in an automobile, and while I will be on crutches for sometime, I just want to let you know I am alive.

There is to be an election on the 12th of July, to consolidate Laksside, El Cajon, La Mesa and Lemon Grove school districts, and if this consolidation takes place, it means the construction as soon as possible of at least a \$150,000 or \$200,000 high school.

There are a number of places attempting to secure the site. It means a great deal both for your property and mine if we can get it at Grossmont, for school facilities materially help in the sale of all property.

The committee has been to see me. They want 30 or 40 acres, and as stated they have several propositions before them. I want them located at Grossmont. I am willing to give, free of charge, the 13 acres across the road from you in Murray Hill, Lot No. 1, just east of the bridge, also several acres of bottom land in the valley below, for their agricultural work, providing you are willing to give 10 acres more just east of the Grossmont depot and across the road from my 13 acres. The 13 acres is that tract in Murray Hill which I exchanged with you for the Grossmont lots.

In other words, without any consideration whatever, I am willing to give a deed to the county to my property, providing you will deed 10 acres of your land free, the deed to be put in escrow with the condition that within a certain time the county is to build a high school to cost not less than \$150,000.00 on the property. I do not care whether they build it on your 10 acres or on my 13, so long as they build it on one or the other of the two tracts.

In a way this is going to be an agricultural

July 12th, 1920

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Monterey, California.

My dear Mr. Murray:

Enclosed find clipping from yesterday's UNION, showing the men who are interested in the water project, from the Mayor down. These men should be able, if anyone could, to put it across.

The Escondido people are now negotiating for the part of the water from the Warners project, and the City of San Diego is going to do something in the very near future to corral all the water in the county, if they are going to have a real city here. These men are pledged to use their best efforts to have the District buy immediately the Cuyamaca and Volcan systems. The petitions are practically all signed and will be filed with the Board of Supervisors this coming week and they will be compelled to call an election at once, without changing the boundaries of the district in any manner.

Yours very truly,

EF/bm  
encl

P.S. You will see by the signatures on the enclosed clipping that even J.W. Sefton, Jr. is with us, and I want to tell you, Mr. Murray, this is the finest bunch of business men in this city. First, of course you will recognize Mayor Wilds; next comes Frank Belcher, President of the First Nat'l. Bank, W. H. Porterfield, Manager of the SUN; M. M. Hellera, one of our leading grocers who has twelve or fourteen stores scattered over the city; Carl Heilbron, of the Southern Electrical Co.; H. H. Jones, Manager of the S.D. Gas & Elec. Co.; you know Stearns; John S. Ackerman, president of the Pac. Wood & Coal Co.; W. R. Rogers of the Merchants Nat'l. Bank; Geo. A. Garrett, our most prominent labor man; W. S. Dorland, President of the Security Trust & Savings Bank; Roscoe Hazard, president of the Pioneer Truck Co; Alex. Reynolds, Jr. President of the U.S. Nat'l. Bank;

Page Two

school, and part of this land will be used for farming for experimental purposes. With the bottom lands that I will give them below, with your mesa lands, and mine around Grossmont, they will have a chance to raise a variety of agricultural products.

On receipt of this will you please wire me your decision; for the election for the consolidation of the districts will be held June 12th, and the committee wishes to make a report thru the weekly newspapers at La Mesa and El Cajon the first week in July.

I shall make no committment except under one condition, and that is the building of a high school within a certain period of time, giving them a reasonable time in which to vote bonds and let the contracts.

The petitions are now being circulated for the water district, and I hope in the near future to give you some good news along that line.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

-2- JAM

you know who G. S. Holzwasser is; Walter Barnes, a leading labor man; you know Setton and G. A. Davidson; A. P. Johnson, Jr. President of the Southern Title Guaranty Co.; M. T. Gilmore, president of the San Diego Savings Bank; you know who George Marston is; Rufus Choate, cashier of the Union Nat'l. Bank; A. D. LaMotte, Manager of Thearle Music Co.; William Kettner, our congressman; D. W. Pontius, General Manager of the S.D. & A.; Senator E. P. Sample; Julius Wangerheim, controlling spirit of Kleuber-Wangerheim Co., wholesale Grocery; F. H. White, President of the Benson Lumber Co.; Porter and Darnall are Hotel men and Chappell and Berry are retired business men.

If these men cannot put this thing through it will never be put through and I know their hearts are in it.

E. F.

July  
14  
1920

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Butte, Mont.

My dear Mr. Murray:

I am pleased to inform you that by a vote of over 7 to 1, the Grossmont Union High School plan carried. Our mutual friend, D. G. Gordon fought it to a finish, and went around saying that it was a Fletcher proposition and he wanted to kill it, as it was his last fight, yet El Cajon went 103 for and 5 against, so he did not do much good in El Cajon.

The building of that High School there will revolutionize that country, in my opinion, and now that the organization is complete, the next step will be the voting of bonds to build the High School which will be pushed rapidly.

Enclosed find clipping from this morning's paper which is explanatory.

On the front page of the paper it shows that there is a certain element here that want El Capitan and are opposed to the district, but I do not believe they can kill it for a minute. It looks like we win either way. They cannot take El Capitan away from us without paying us a good round sum for it, but I do hate to look forward to years of litigation, if we can help it, and we must put thru this district.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

July  
Sixteenth  
Nineteen  
Twenty

Mr. Jas. A. Murray,  
Butte, Montana.

My dear Mr. Murray:

Enclosed find copy of letter that Crouch sent to Charpe & Fellows. They are asking \$22,500. We have not yet gotten a final decision from them whether they will accept \$20,000.

Enclosed find clipping from yesterday morning's Union, showing editorially that the Spreckels people are in favor of El Capitan; also enclosed find the afternoon's editorial in the Sun. Do not fail to read these two articles. Certainly the Sun put it up right.

Spreckels, both in writing, and verbally, is committed to this water district, yet his editor in chief, MacMullen, is opposed to the district. There has been a big split in the Spreckels family. John Forward, Jr. has been fired, and Stearns has had a big row with MacMullen over the Wilde-Sun libel suit, which has been settled by Wilde turning over the Community Oil fund to Stearns and the Commissioner of Corporations to run, for he, Wilde, was certainly in a bad position, having sold \$30,000 of his own property to the Community Oil Fund and taken the money out of the Community Oil Fund of which he was trustee. MacMullen says that Stearns double-crossed him, which is not true. It is a darn good settlement for Wilde, who with-draw both the libel and the criminal suits against the Sun people, and accepted the Sun's dictation as to settlement, but that settlement peaved the Spreckels people who were really egging Wilde on all the time. If Spreckels repudiates the formation of this water district, he will lose his few remaining friends in this city, for the best men of the city will not stand for any such double-crossing, however, all the Spreckels paper can do is to bark. The business men say they will carry this district in any event. To give you some idea of the popularity of the movement in East San Diego, out of 107 people approached, 105 signed the petition, and in San Diego, 90% of the people approached signed the petition to form the district.

Yours truly,

EF:KLM

July 21, 1920

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Monterey, California.

My dear Mr. Murray:

I certainly enjoyed reading your kind letter of July 19th. I am getting better every day. Am down at the office from 9 a.m. until 12M. and from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. and am getting back into the harness again and feeling well.

Sunday we had a tremendous brush fire that burned the brush for over a mile along our wooden pipe from Murray Dam toward the city. The flames were ten and fifteen feet high at times, and the fire went clear to Murray Dam, but the wooden pipe was not damaged, but we lost a few small trestles. \$150 will cover the expense. The big fire came within 100 yards of the Healion house, but we back-fired there and put it out.

Regarding Reynolds: if you want him to buy my interest alone, and put him in charge down here, this is satisfactory to me, and I will sell my interest in the water company for the note which you have of Mrs. Fletcher's and mine. Naturally, I prefer to stay with the proposition until you sell, but if you think it is for the best interests of the Company that Mr. Reynolds should come down here and buy me out, and take over the management of the Company, this is satisfactory to me.

My friend Gilmore signed the petition for the formation of the Water District. The Gilmore you refer to is a little red-headed fellow, a friend of MacMullin of the Union, and it is laughable to even think of his ever having written the statement that was published over his name, for he could not do it.

All of my friends, including Gilmore, President of the San Diego Savings Bank, George Marston, Davidson of the Southern Trust, Rogers of the Merchant's National, Dorland of the Security, and even Bolcher of the First National which is controlled by Spreckels, D.W. Pontius, General Manager of the San Diego & Arizona Railroad, and many others have signed the petition endorsing the water district.

I absolutely agree with you, that if we can sell the Volcan or Cuyamaca independent of the other, let's sell them. Since I saw you last, Mr. Henshaw, Mr. Treanor and I have been to Escondido and found out that Escondido will be short of water this Fall, and wants to buy 5000 acre feet as soon as they can get it. The petitions are now being circulated to form a water district between Escondido and Oceanside, including 33,000 acres.

Henshaw has withdrawn from sale his Bernardo Ranch of 5000 acres. He has struck oil at his 700 acre tract at Montebello- 250 barrels a day, and it will make him a multi-millionaire, independent of his present holdings. Right now, we are moving heaven and earth to sell Warners water to the proposed district between Escondido and Oceanside, and will put the balance of the water on Mr. Henshaw's land on the Bernardo Ranch. It will be a crime that the city does not get it, but there is not more than enough water for the lands above described, and it makes the Cuyamaca all the more valuable.

There is every indication that we are going to have a real fight at El Capitan, as I have predicted. The City Council are fighting the Water Commission, and are getting behind the El Capitan.

As I told you when you were here, Spreckels was at a meeting and voted to form this water district, MacMullen, Editor of the Union was also there, and there was not a dissenting vote, but when it came to determining what act of legislature would be used, Spreckels wanted a Public Utilities District for the reason that he wants to sell his Electric Railway to the City, and that can only be done in that way. The Gas Company wanted another Act of Legislature, a Municipal Water District, because under that act no power to buy gas or electric plants or street railways is given, but it is confined wholly to water. The result is, there is a row on between Spreckels and the Gas Company. The Gas Company won out, and the Committee of Thirty decided to form the Municipal Water District instead of a Public Utilities District, and then Spreckels goes and files on all the underground waters of the Tia Juana River. The application is now before the State Water Commission and Spreckels is again in the water business, just to what extent I do not know, as yet.

So again I say, whenever we get a chance to sell the Cuyamaca System I, for one, am ready to sell if you are. I cannot speak for Mr. Henshaw, but I

certainly will go the limit if it is your desire to sell the Company independently.

The plan of the business men of the City was to organize this water district and take in not alone the Cuyamaca and Volcan systems, but the city system as well, and possibly the Sweetwater later on, and in that way let the District control the water in this section of the county.

No doubt you have received my letter with one from Mr. Martin saying that the Cuyamaca decision would be pulled off this week. And I have written you about the Sharpe-Fellows case.

We were compelled to buy a bond. Crouch did not say anything to me about a bond until almost the last day had expired, and they were going to attach our property, so I got an appeal bond in a hurry, in June while I was still flat on my back, rather than have them attach our property. If we settle this case now, it seems to me we should get a very substantial rebate for the first year's premium, which I will try and get.

I hope you are feeling in good spirits and health.

With kind regards,

Yours very sincerely,

EF/bm

July  
Twenty-second  
Nineteen  
Twenty

Mr. Jas. A. Murray,  
Monterey, California.

My dear Mr. Murray:

The City Council are opposed to the water district, altho they have nothing to do with it. The matter is entirely in the hands of the Board of Supervisors, and it is compulsory that they call an election as soon as the petitions are signed in a sufficient number. Practically all the petitions are now signed.

The City Council's action is primarily against the City Water Commission who have taken the lead in the matter of forming a water district. The City Council for months have been fighting the water commission as to jurisdiction over Barrett Dam, and the case is now in the supreme court on appeal. Anything the City Council can do to soak the water commission they are doing.

Enclosed find clipping from this afternoon's Sun which is explanatory. I received word this afternoon that four members of the City Council are really in favor of the water district, but they are using this method to kill the water commission. It is a game of politics it seems at the present time, as far as the council are concerned.

John D. Spreckels and MacMullen were present when the Committee of Thirty voted to form the water district. We are waiting for Mr. Spreckels' return to find out whether he has turned against the district, and if he has, he violates both his written and verbal word, as there is a written agreement signed whereby if twenty of the committee of thirty agree to do anything to develop the city, the other ten are bound, but in this case it was unanimous. It looks as if Spreckels is turning out to be a yellow dog, and if he does it will hurt him worse than anything that ever has happened before in this city, as far as the Spreckels interests are concerned.

July 23rd, 1920

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Monterey, California.

My dear Mr. Murray:

Enclosed find letter from El Monte Ranch Co. relative to the contract which I sent you, and which has already been signed by Mr. Henshaw and myself.

H. H. Timken owns El Monte Ranch Co., and is our friend. That contract is in every particular the same as the one we signed up with Thum Bros. excepting that both of us reserve the right to go into court rather than arbitrate, if there is any damage caused by the construction of our dams. I do hope that you will sign the contract and send it back, for it means that Timken, Thum and Scripps who is drawing up a similar contract, will be our friends and against the city in case the city does commence to build El Capitan.

We are not paying a dollar to either Scripps, Timken or Thum for their consent to build any dams we or our successors may desire to build in the future. It strengthens our hold on the water supply, and makes our Cuyamaca proposition all the more attractive to sell, even if we don't build any dams in the future.

Will you please return the contract signed or unsigned as you may determine, in the near future.

Yours very truly,

EF/bm  
encl

59997715  
59997715

Page Two

All of the boys say that it is simply a question of getting in and fight. Even Fred Stearns says that if we go into this fight, it is to show the Spreckels people up, and in addition go in and repeal the Anti-Jitney Bus Ordinance, and circulate a petition to force the Spreckels people to pave between the street car tracks which will cost a million dollars. I hate to see this fight started. It has been impossible for the last ten years to get the Sun and the Union in favor of the same proposition.

If the City Council really mean what they say, they have made up their minds to take El Capitan dam away from us and build it. It is very unfortunate in that case that we have not heretofore commenced work on building the diverting dam, and the small dam at the South Fork. The Government report of the U. S. Reclamation Service just out shows that the present net safe yield of the Cuyamaca System, covering a thirty year period, is 3,392,000 gallons per day, and if \$300,000 is spent in building the diverting dam, or Marcks damsite, and a small dam on the South Fork, our net safe yield will be increased 6,784,000 gallons a day. Once built the water never can be taken away from us, but if they commence building El Capitan dam before we start ours, the city will never let us built our two dams, and we will lose half of our water supply.

If you cannot finance the building of these two dams, and if I can get someone else to finance, by loaning the company say, \$350,000 on 7% interest, for ten years, would you be willing to join in and let the present Cuyamaca System be put up as security. Mr. Henshaw and I would, of course, pig up our share of the money to pay off the mortgage due you on the property.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM



July  
27th  
1920

Mr. Jas. A. Murray,  
c/o Adler Hotel,  
San Francisco.

My dear Mr. Murray:

Answering yours of July 24th, I do hope there is nothing serious that would cause you to go to the Adler Hotel. Please write and let me know what is the trouble. I certainly hope it is not serious.

Am able to travel now, and if I can be of service at any time, or you want to talk to me before you go to Montana, I shall be glad to come to San Francisco. I can walk a little without crutches even now, and am improving every day.

I received your check for \$16,666.65. I enclose you herewith your other check to Sharpe-Fellows. Before any money is paid, I will get the Sharpe-Fellows people to sign a satisfaction of judgment and release in full on the records at the court house. This is the best evidence, is it not? We saved nearly \$5,000 in the settlement, and if we had lost the case, we would have had to pay nearly \$1,000 more, their cost of appeal. What worried me most was that I am of the opinion that the Supreme Court would have sent the case back for a re-trial and I am sure the proper thing to do is to settle.

There is nothing new regarding the water situation, excepting that Mr. Savage has been asked to hurry up his report at an early date. The city hydraulic engineer, Mr. Earle, makes the net safe yield of El Capitan, in his official report at 16,000,000 gallons a day. Mr. Savage yesterday said it was only 5,000,000, but I am of the opinion that Mr. Savage is going to report in favor of building El Capitan dam. They will have to pay a pretty penny before they get it. My opinion is they will consider it advisable to buy the whole Cuyamaca System rather than try and take El Capitan away from us, particularly as our El Monte pumping plant below will be cut off from water in time of emergency. Will keep you posted in the matter.

I am anxious to hear from you as to whether you are seriously sick or not, and hope to hear that all is well by return mail.

Yours very truly,

EF:KIM

Adler Sanatorium  
Broadway and Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, Cal.

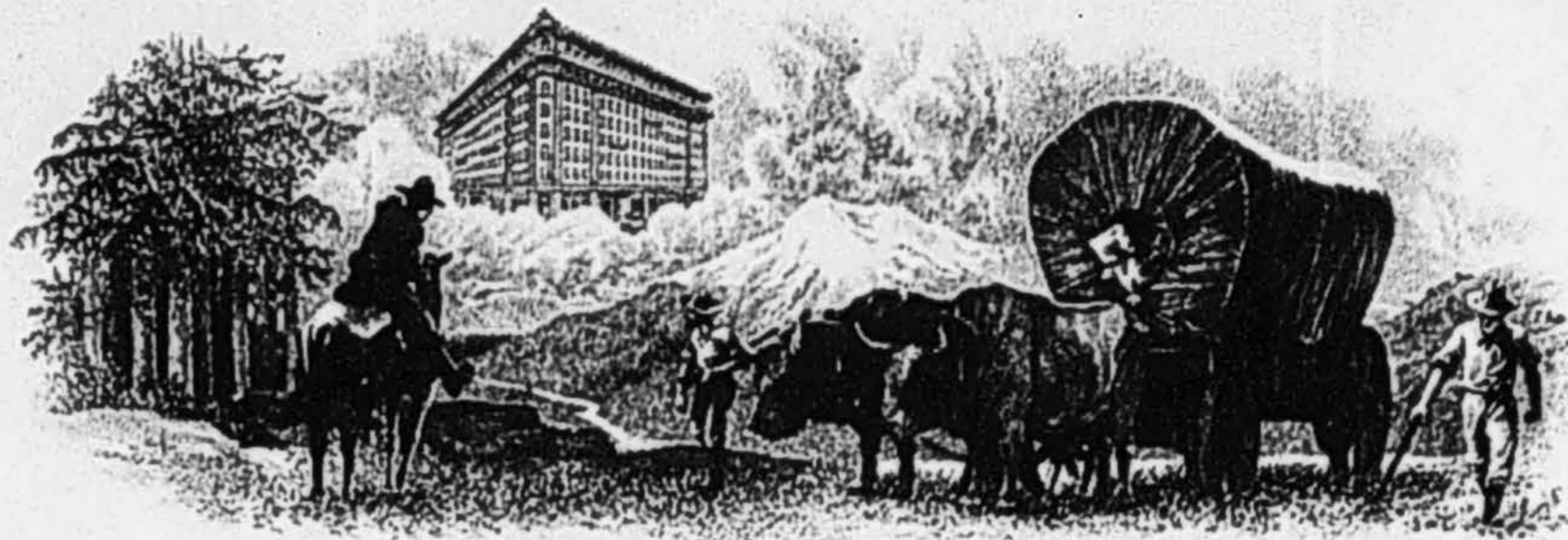
August 2, 1920  
Ed Fletcher  
San Diego.

Dear Sir,  
I think the party you mention would be the right party to handle that matter. I feel satisfied that there will be no district formed to take in all the water in that part of country. If you could prevail on the La Mesa people to form

a district of their own to purchase the property it would be more satisfactory all around

However if you can prevail on this man you speak of, I think we should pay him \$50,000 for his services, if he disposed of it at 1,400,000 or if he disposed of it at \$350,000 we would pay him a commission of \$25,000. I am layed up here for maybe a week; as soon as I get home I will write to you in full.

J. A. Murray  
(Murray & Murphy).



MANAGEMENT OF  
HALSEY E. MANWARING

At the end of the trail stands the historic Palace Hotel, San Francisco

August 26, 1920.

Mr. Ed Fletcher,  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Sir:

Providing Mr. Kettner does not sell the Cuyamaca System so-called owned by Mrs. James A. Murray, Ed Fletcher and William G. Henshaw, in San Diego Co., Calif., then and in that case, you are authorized to sell said Cuyamaca System to the La Mesa Spring Valley and Lemon Grove Irrigation Districts as at present constituted or to an enlarged district and take our pay either in cash or bonds of the district bearing 6% interest; said bonds to be approved by Dillon, Thompson & Clay as to their legality, said bonds to be the usual irrigation bonds issued by water districts as to time of maturity. The price of the Cuyamaca to be that established by the State Engineer and in no case to be less than \$1,250,000.00. If the valuation at which the system is sold to the district is \$1,250,000.00, you will be paid the sum of \$25,000.00 either in cash or bonds for your services in promoting the deal. If the sale is made for \$1,350,000.00, or more you will be paid a commission of \$50,000.00. If the sale is made on the basis of a million and a half or more, you will be paid a commission of \$75,000.00, said commission to be cash or bonds at my option. This offer to hold good for a reasonable length of time and in any event the bonds to be voted within one year from date, otherwise this agreement is null and void.

Yours very truly,

J. A. Murray

HOTEL ST. FRANCIS  
UNION SQUARE  
SAN FRANCISCO

MANAGEMENT - THOMAS J. COLEMAN

San Francisco  
August 28, 1920.

Mr Ed Fletcher  
San Diego Calif

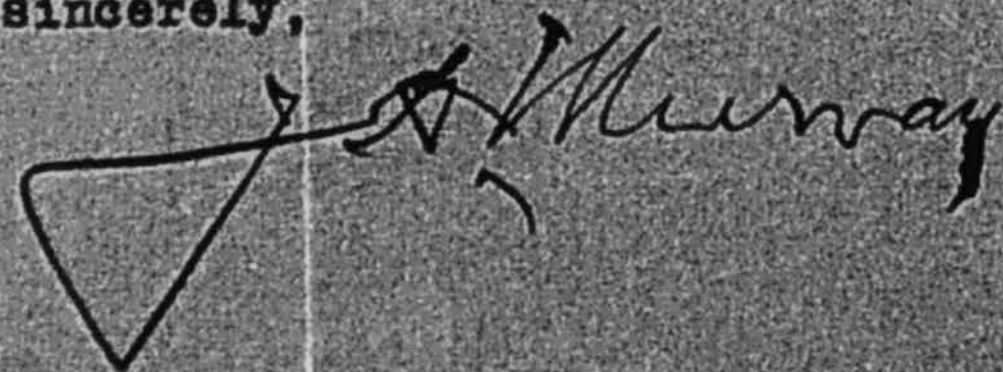
Dear Ed:

I read the power contract and feel that it is about right but I wanted to ask you if our giving that contract to the Gas Company would spoil a trade in case we had a chance to sell. I thought you might take that contract and show it to the head man of the La Mesa district and see what they think about it. It might hurry them up if nothing more.

I have this to say now - I am more interested in your condition than I am in the disposition of the water company because I know that that proposition will be alright in the near future if not at present. I have this much to say for you, if you will straighten up your affairs there and put somebody else in charge and go up to Hunter Springs I feel that it would pull you out alright and I would pay all the expenses - it doesn't make any difference whether you say there one month or three months. It is more important for you to look out for yourself than all the business in San Diego County.

I hope to be in Butte in about a week from now as I leave here tomorrow night.

Yours sincerely,



August  
30  
1920.

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Butte, Montana.

My dear Mr. Murray:

In my conference at San Francisco last Wednesday with the Attorney for Harry Payne Whitney of New York and the Henshaw interests, it was agreed that if Whitney would put up his share of the cost of the \$200,000 pipe line to Linda Vista from Murray Dam, Mr. Henshaw would put up his share of the cost and I was asked to put up my share, which will be about \$30,000: the idea being to buy water from the Cuyamaca Company. This \$200,000 brand-new pipe line I think they would be willing to give us outright and we would forever after maintain it, or they will maintain it themselves and the water will be measured at Murray Dam and we have nothing to do with it, excepting to collect it so much a thousand gallons...at whatever rate the Railroad Commission determines. Which method do you think advisable? I have not suggested either method but want to hear from you. My understanding with you in San Francisco was that this was a good move.

My suggestion is that you write me a letter along the following lines:

"Mr. Ed. Fletcher, Mgr.,  
Cuyamaca Water Co.,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

Answering your letter of August 30, will say that provided Messrs. Henshaw, Whitney, Filer and yourself build, at your own expense, a pipe line to Linda Vista Mesa to irrigate 3,000 or 4,000 acres, I am willing on behalf of the Cuyamaca Water Co. to agree to furnish you what water you need at rates established by the Railroad Commission of the State of California and subject to the approval of the State Railroad Commission of California. The water is to be measured at Murray Dam, and paid for monthly, according to rules and regulations of the Company. This arrangement is subject to cancellation, if work is not commenced within three months from date in good faith and diligently prosecuted until completed.

Yours truly"

The above letter is simply a suggestion. The Railroad Commission will have to approve it, and it means additional revenue to us. If you don't want to go to the Railroad Commission and stand for their dictation and want to take the responsibility, why you can cut that feature of the letter out, but it is wise

in my opinion to cooperate with the Railroad Commission until we make up our minds to fight them to a finish.

I would appreciate an early reply because this matter is going to be settled in New York within the next thirty days and I must give them some definite answer by telegraph on receipt of your letter.

This move is a good bluff on the City of San Diego and the Water District and I think will make one or the other come through. If it does not, why we certainly want to sell our surplus water and increase the revenue of the Cuyamaca Water Company.

Yours very truly,

EF/hls

August  
30  
1920.

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Butte, Montana.

My dear Mr. Murray:

In my conference at San Francisco last Wednesday with the Attorney for Harry Payne Whitney of New York and the Henshaw interests, it was agreed that if Whitney would put up his share of the cost of the \$200,000 pipe line to Linda Vista from Murray Dam, Mr. Henshaw would put up his share of the cost and I was asked to put up my share, which will be about \$30,000: the idea being to buy water from the Cuyamaca Company. This \$200,000 brand-new pipe line I think they would be willing to give us outright and we would forever after maintain it, or they will maintain it themselves and the water will be measured at Murray Dam and we have nothing to do with it, excepting to collect it so much a thousand gallons...at whatever rate the Railroad Commission determines. Which method do you think advisable? I have not suggested either method but want to hear from you. My understanding with you in San Francisco was that this was a good move.

My suggestion is that you write me a letter along the following lines:

"Mr. Ed. Fletcher, Mgr.,  
Cuyamaca Water Co.,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

Answering your letter of August 30, will say that provided Messrs. Henshaw, Whitney, Filer and yourself build, at your own expense, a pipe line to Linda Vista Mesa to irrigate 3,000 or 4,000 acres, I am willing on behalf of the Cuyamaca Water Co. to agree to furnish you what water you need at rates established by the Railroad Commission of the State of California and subject to the approval of the State Railroad Commission of California. The water is to be measured at Murray Dam, and paid for monthly, according to rules and regulations of the Company. This arrangement is subject to cancellation, if work is not commenced within three months from date in good faith and diligently prosecuted until completed.

Yours truly"

The above letter is simply a suggestion. The Railroad Commission will have to approve it, and it means additional revenue to us. If you don't want to go to the Railroad Commission and stand for their dictation and want to take the responsibility, why you can cut that feature of the letter out, but it is wise

is my opinion to cooperate with the Railroad Commission until we make up our minds to fight them to a finish.

I would appreciate an early reply because this matter is going to be settled in New York within the next thirty days and I must give them some definite answer by telegraph on receipt of your letter.

This move is a good bluff on the City of San Diego and the Water District and I think will make one or the other come through. If it does not, why we certainly want to sell our surplus water and increase the revenue of the Cuyamaca Water Company.

Yours very truly,

EF/hls

August  
30  
1920

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Butte, Mont.

My dear Mr. Murray:

I am in receipt of your very kind and appreciated letter of August 28th, from the St. Francis. You never will know how much I enjoyed reading it, because it gives a man the feeling that there are other things, such as friendship, outside of business, otherwise this offer would not have been made by you, and on that account I appreciate it all the more.

I was suffering a great deal in San Francisco. I had both fever and chills, and when I arrived home was pretty well bunged up. Friday night my leg commenced to swell, and Saturday afternoon it was necessary to have another operation to remove another blood clot, but this blood clot was not large, not more than the whites of two eggs, Mrs. Fletcher said, and it gave me almost immediate relief. The only annoying feature now is the cloth wick which they keep inside the wound and change daily.

I appreciate your offer more than I can say, and if the doctor says I can go, I will try and clean up my work and go there.

I must get the decision of the Railroad Commission and see what it is and get the plans for the future straightened out before I leave. Within two or three weeks we will have the Del Mar-La Jolla pipe line completed, I hope, and Jim, I may take you up on that proposition and bring Mrs. Fletcher with me if only for a week or two at the Hot Springs anyway. If I go there it will be within the next thirty days. I, too, have great confidence in those springs. I think the physicians have done about all they can to me now, and I am ready to try something else. I know this - that my leg is completely healed as far as the bones are concerned, it is a matter of the flesh. Will keep you posted.

With kindest regards, I am  
Very truly yours,

EF:KIM

September 23, 1920

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Butte, Mont.

My dear Mr. Murray:

Enclosed find clipping from this morning Union, which is explanatory, showing the City's determination to go after El Capitan. I wish you would read the article carefully.

I am making good progress in the matter of selling Cuyamaca System to the La Mesa Irrigation District.

Am sorry to say it, but we are sleeping on our rights in not building the Marcks dam, and a small diverting dam at South Fork. We can make a contract with the city to furnish them water that will give us enough revenue to pay, in four or five years, for the construction of both the Marcks dam and the South Fork, and make our Cuyamaca System a fine paying proposition. But the City has a big advantage. All they have to do now is to file a suit to condemn the El Capitan damsite, and put up a bond, and go right ahead with the construction of El Capitan dam, and all we have got is endless litigation with the courts to determine what the value of El Capitan site is, and our damage, for the city will then be in a position to absolutely prohibit us from ever building any dams above, while \$400,000 spent now will more than double our water supply, and it will make it easier for us to sell our water system either to a district or to the city and at a much higher price.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

October 25, 1920

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Monterey, California.

My dear Mr. Murray:

Enclosed find clipping which is explanatory.

The movement is gaining headway to form a district, and I am to attend a meeting at La Mesa this week, but I cannot be chasing after them. It's got to come from the people - the question of an irrigation district, and good headway is being made.

I hope you are feeling much better.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

November 6, 1920

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Fairmont Hotel,  
San Francisco, Calif.

My dear Mr. Murray:

By a vote of 1127 in favor and 345 against, the people voted yesterday to build the first unit of a High School, costing \$110,000, at Grossmont. I hope to see it built of granite, and one of the attractions of the back country. Between 500 and 600 pupils will go there just as soon as the building is completed. The district includes the high school children from El Cajon valley, La Mesa, Lemon Grove and Spring valley.

Enclosed find agreement in duplicate with the El Monte Ranch Company which I went over with Mr. James E. Murray. This is the same that we signed with Thum Brothers. We are getting something for nothing. It strengthens our hand and we can capitalize on it when we sell later on, for it means just so many additional miles of riparian rights.

Mr. Henshaw and I signed the other contract but it is in Montana, I believe. Will you kindly sign both copies and return, and I will have Mr. Henshaw's son sign and same will be put of record.

The irrigation district is surely going to buy our system, in my opinion, and they want us to acquire all the riparian rights that we can. They will assume any responsibility of any damage, but it will be a mighty hard thing to show damage.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

November 17, 1920

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Monterey, California.

My dear Mr. Murray:

Am sorry I have not seen you and your wife down here, and hope that you are not under the weather.

If you want me at any time to come to Monterey to talk over matters, I shall be glad to come. I am very anxious to make some arrangement with you whereby I will not have to pay the note I owe you until the Cuyamaca System is sold, and am willing at any time to transfer my interest either to you, or to a trust company, as you desire, to protect you on the note.

The La Mesa Chamber of Commerce has appointed a committee to cooperate with the La Mesa Irrigation District in the matter of negotiations for the purchase of the Cuyamaca System. I had a talk with the president of the Chamber of Commerce of San Diego today, Mr. A. P. Johnson, Jr., who says he is heartily in favor of the City acquiring the Cuyamaca System, and unquestionably the City will take up the question of the purchase of the Cuyamaca System at an early date, so between the two I know we are going to sell in the near future, if it meets with your approval.

With kind regards, and hoping that you are feeling all right, I am

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

November 26, 1920.

Mr. James E. Murray,  
Butte, Montana.

My dear Mr. Murray:

I am in receipt of your letter of November 13th, to the effect that Mr. Murray will turn in all the notes issued by the Cuyamaca Company to him, and he will be given credit on his General Account as money advanced. This is satisfactory and according to the statements that have been rendered to Mr. Murray, but so far Mr. Murray has never turned in the notes and Mr. Mathews has been awaiting the return of the notes before he could change his books to conform.

Am glad to know that the matter of salary is adjusted and to his satisfaction. The water company will be making money from now on with the increase in rates.

I want both you and Mr. Murray to know that there can be no trouble between us, for if there is any misunderstanding ever, I am ready to leave the question to arbitration in the usual manner, for I never intend to have any misunderstanding with Mr. James A. He has been a friend to me from the beginning, and I want it to continue to the end.

Mr. Murray has a perfect right, and I have no objection to his deeding the Cuyamaca property to the Monidah Trust, neither have I ever opposed the deeding of the property to the Cuyamaca Water Company, a corporation. This arrangement is perfectly satisfactory to me and always has been, but our attorneys in San Diego gave Mr. Murray and me an opinion that if we ever deeded the property to a corporation, and took in stock less than what we considered the value of the property, we would be jeopardizing our interests later on when it came to making a sales value either by the Railroad Commission or by the courts, in order to get back our money and 8% interest on the investment. We now have roughly a million dollars or more in the plant. We have a valuation by the State Engineer of \$1,451,000 for our property and this valuation is based on our selling

November 26, 1920

Mr. James E. Murray,  
Butte, Montana.

My dear Mr. Murray:

I certainly appreciate your friendly letter and your expression of feeling toward my integrity and your desire to see that I get fair treatment.

I am perfectly willing to do whatever Mr. Murray wants done in the matter of deeding to a corporation. All I ask is that he does not make me pay that note until the Cuyamaca System is disposed of, or at any rate give me five years in which to pay. I sincerely trust by that time I will be able to sell something, even if the Cuyamaca System is not sold and pay him off.

If Mr. Murray has any desire on earth to get rid of me, I will deed him my one-twelfth interest in exchange for the \$87,000 note and interest which I owe him, and step out. Based on the State Engineer's valuation my one-twelfth interest in the Cuyamaca System is worth \$120,000, and if Mr. Murray is dissatisfied with me in any way I would rather clean up and get out.

I will have Mr. Sweet write you his opinion in regard to our taking \$600,000 worth of stock in the Cuyamaca corporation for our present holdings, and then whatever you and Mr. Murray decide will be satisfactory to me. I cannot speak for Mr. Henshaw, but I have no reason but to believe he will do whatever Mr. Murray and I decide to do.

The deed has come and Mr. Mathews and I will check it over carefully, have a deed ready for final execution and send you a copy of same for your approval in a few days.

The Cuyamaca Company should certainly pay your expenses when you come down to San Diego or San Francisco



the Cuyamaca System to the district, but it is intimated in the report of the State Engineer that if the water is sold as a domestic supply a higher valuation should obtain. Why not increase the capital stock of the present corporation to two and one-half million dollars and ask the State Railroad Commission to allow us to deed this property to the Cuyamaca Water Company, a corporation and take stock in the corporation for the Cuyamaca plant as it exists, say for \$1,500,000. If they will not do this let's find out what they will do. We can get a commitment from them in advance as to what they will and will not agree to, and Mr. Murray can then decide what is the best thing to do.

The prospects of sale to the irrigation district, taking 6 percent bonds in payment, are looking more favorable every day. The Chamber of Commerce at La Mesa have appointed a committee of men who are favorable to the acquisition of the system by the district, and there will be a meeting in the very near future at which something definite will be decided.

If, within the next few weeks, the District Directors should agree to call an election to purchase our system at a price that is satisfactory, do you still consider it advisable to go ahead and form a corporation anyway? I have asked our attorney to give us a new opinion as to the advisability of deeding the property to a corporation unless we secure a stock valuation sufficient at least to cover our investment and eight percent interest, and as much higher as we can.

I again repeat, I am ready to do anything Mr. Murray wants me to, and what he and you think is best, but is not Mr. Murray not making a mistake for himself and on my account in our accepting stock to the extent of \$600,000 for our property when we have an investment of nearly double that amount? My suggestion is that you and I meet in San Francisco and go and see the Commission and get a commitment from the Commission in advance before the property is deeded.

With kind personal regards, I am  
Very sincerely yours,

EF:KIM

cc- J.A.M.

on this matter, and I will see that they are paid.

I will write you about the Pine Hills matter in a few days, as soon as I can get the facts.

Yours very truly,

EF:KIM

December  
8  
1920

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Monterey, Calif.

My dear Mr. Murray:

The charter amendment election yesterday is over, and Mr. Spreckels, personally, never got such an overwhelming defeat in his life.

It was really Mr. MacMullen, his manager, who is to blame. Mr. Spreckels, before the Chamber of Commerce, Merchants Association and different organizations in the city, personally pled for the passage of the charter amendment increasing the bonding margin of the city from 15 to 25%. His plea was in the hopes of providing funds for the building of El Capitan. The people, however, were convinced that his main motive was to provide funds for the purchase of his electric railway system, or to provide funds to the extent of over a million dollars to pave the streets between his car tracks, which Spreckels legally is obligated to do, but is trying to push off onto the people, and plans are all made to get a bill thru the Legislature allowing San Diego to do it.

Enclosed find editorial of the San Diego Union which please make it a point to read. The real facts are Mr. Spreckels and his henchman agreed, with the Committee of Thirty, to go ahead with this municipal water district, he allowed all of his subordinates such as Frank Belcher, H. H. Jones, Mayor Wilde, Pontius and the business men who do his bidding, also men like Marston, Davidson and the most prominent men of the city to sign an agreement and publicly print an endorsement of the formation of the municipal water district, then he made monkeys out of them at the last minute, repudiating them all, and the overwhelming vote of nearly three to one sending Mr. Spreckels' pet project under, is a token of their resentment.

Mr. Spreckels and MacMullen did their worst to see that the City Water Commission was abolished by a charter amendment, but they failed in that as well, and the entire city council have been repudiated by the people

Dec. 9, 1920.

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Monterey, Calif.

My dear Mr. Murray:

The owners of water right contracts from the San Diego Flume Company and the consumers have appealed from the decision of the Railroad Commission direct to the Supreme Court of the State of California, both as to increase in rates and old water right contracts and are insisting upon the fulfillment of the water rights contracts to the letter.

The State Railroad Commission are cooperating with us in expediting the matter and there is no question in my mind but what the Supreme Court will stand behind the Railroad Commission in its increase in rates and also will favor knocking out the old water right contracts. It is a good thing to get these matters settled as quickly as possible. I will use every effort to expedite this matter.

With every increase in rates, I notice a growing public desire for the acquisition of the Cuyamaca system by the district. The Chamber of Commerce of La Mesa have appointed a Committee to go into this matter and have invited me to discuss the matter with them tonight.

You will hear from me later on, on the subject.

EF/hls  
CC  
J.T.  
G.H.  
J.E.H.

Yours very truly,

Mr. Jas. A. Murray -

on their charter amendment endorsed by the city council.  
Not one carried that the city council urged the people  
to pass!

This will give you some idea of what is going  
to happen next March when the city election takes place,  
and four out of five new councilmen will be elected, and  
probably the fifth one will resign and attempt to run  
for Mayor. I kept out of this fight, never got into the  
newspaper once in favor or against any of the amendments  
and refused to discuss it even with my friends, but  
I tell you the election makes me mighty happy.

Yours very truly,

BF:KLM

cc- J. E. M.

December 22, 1920.

Mr. James A. Murray,  
Monterey, California.

My dear Mr. Murray:

Enclosed find shipping receipt for the annual box of olives.

I have got the final draft of the power contract with the Gas Company approved by Mr. Henshaw, and as soon as I can get their signatures will bring the contract up for yours, if it meets with your approval.

The Chamber of Commerce of La Mesa have appointed a committee and I have been out to see the committee twice regarding the purchase of the Cuyamaca System. They have tentatively agreed on \$1,250,000, but I am still holding out for \$1,350,000 in bonds, and hope to win them over this coming week.

What they are afraid of is that they will not be able to finance the building of the two dams which will cost five or six hundred thousand dollars, one at the Marcks damsite and the other in South Fork. If we could give them the assurance that we would take their six percent bonds, say at ninety, to complete the two dams, I would have no trouble in putting the deal over at once. They are afraid that the city will stop them from building, and that is why they hesitate.

As soon as I whip things into shape I am coming up to see you, but if you would like to have me, will come any time.

Am also sending you some oranges and lemons by express today.

I do hope, James A., you are feeling better. Do not forget you owe me \$20 or \$30 on cribbage!

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Murray for a Happy Holiday Season, I am

Sincerely yours,

EF:KLM

**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 19 Folder: 11**

**General Correspondence - Murray, James A -**



**Copyright:** UC Regents

**Use:** This work is available from the UC San Diego Libraries. This digital copy of the work is intended to support research, teaching, and private study.

**Constraints:** This work is protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). Use of this work beyond that allowed by "fair use" requires written permission of the UC Regents. Permission may be obtained from the UC San Diego Libraries department having custody of the work (<http://libraries.ucsd.edu/collections/mscl/>). Responsibility for obtaining permissions and any use and distribution of this work rests exclusively with the user and not the UC San Diego Libraries.