

190-1

RICHARD TAYLOR ROBINSON, JR.  
1121-4 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

March  
13  
1922.

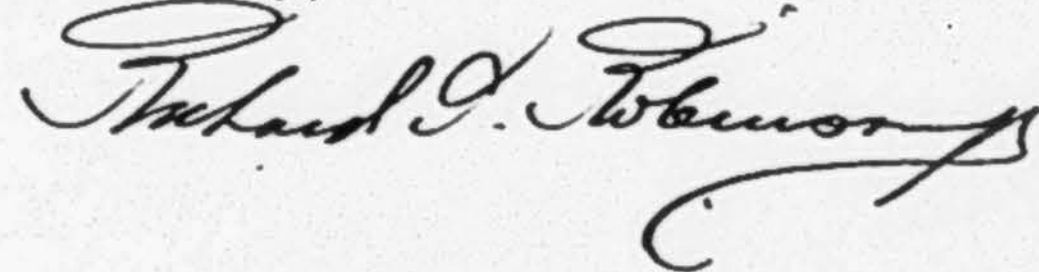
My dear Mr. Fletcher:-

I am just in receipt of your letter of March 10th enclosing complimentary ~~commission~~ commission for hunting and fishing at Murray and Cuyamaca for which please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation.

I was extremely sorry that the events made it impossible for me to get in touch with Mr. Judson in time to give you some definite information which you requested and I sincerely hope that the results of the meeting at Santee will be as satisfactory as you have hoped. I wish to take this opportunity of assuring you of my ~~best~~ *heartly* cooperation and support.

Thanking you again for your kindness and hoping for an early opportunity of bettering our acquaintance, I remain

Yours sincerely,



TO-

Mr. F. Fletcher,  
920 - 8th Street,  
San Diego, Calif.

May 22, 1922.

Mr. R. T. Robinson, Jr.,  
El Cajon, Calif.

My dear Mr. Robinson:

At a conference with the city trustees of El Cajon, they have agreed to immediately proceed with the sale of their \$4,000 in bonds for the construction of the highway, as soon as the money is deposited in the Cuyamaca State Bank by the private contributors, and they will immediately thereafter advertise for bids.

Will you kindly make out a check to the Cuyamaca State Bank for your subscription of \$100 and send it to them on the understanding that the money will be returned if for any reason the highway is not built within a reasonable time? We desire to have all of this money in the bank by the first of June.

Yours very truly,

RF:AH



July 20, 1922.

190-1

Mr. R. T. Robinson, Jr.,  
First National Bank Bldg.,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Robinson:

Inclosed find copy of letter to  
Mr. Judson, which I furnished at his request,  
which is for your information.

I will be glad to furnish you any  
information desired.

Very sincerely yours,

EF:AH

190-1  
July 22, 1922.

Messrs. Judson & Robinson,  
First National Bank Bldg.,  
San Diego, Calif.

Gentlemen:

As per your request, inclosed find  
statement of gross revenue of the Cuyamaca Company from  
the year 1915 to date. You will notice that the year  
1921 is slightly higher than the figures we gave you.  
This is because we only gave you the revenue from the  
sale of water, but as a matter of fact, we have other  
revenues, such as fishing, boating, etc.

Also inclosed please find statement of  
total consumption of water in cubic feet from the year 1915  
to 1921, inclusive, showing the continual increase in the  
number of consumers. You may wonder why the irrigation con-  
sumption is somewhat lower now than in 1915 and 1916. The  
reason is this:- In 1915 under orders of the Railroad Com-  
mission we were selling irrigating water to our consumers at  
1.5¢ per thousand gallons, wholesale domestic water at 11¢  
a thousand gallons, and domestic at 25¢ a thousand gallons.  
In 1917 the Railroad Commission increased our irrigation  
rate to 5¢ a thousand gallons, and in 1920 increased it to  
5¢ a thousand gallons, and we are now collecting 6¢ a thousand  
gallons, while the wholesale domestic rate to El Cajon, East  
San Diego, and La Mesa is 20¢ a thousand gallons up to 100,000  
cubic feet, and 15¢ a thousand gallons thereafter.

Water was so cheap in 1915, 1916, and 1917  
that everybody used all they wanted and wasted it, but at the  
new and higher rates they are conserving their water more, and  
I am glad to see the irrigation demand go down and the domestic  
demand increase.

Independent of the City of San Diego, our  
domestic demands have increased in seven years over 100%. In  
1915 the domestic use was only 7% or 8% of the total use. In  
1921, eliminating the sales to the City of San Diego, the domestic  
supply had increased to 18% or 20%.

Attached hereto is an exhibit showing the  
use of water by months and years by the cities of East San Diego,  
La Mesa, and El Cajon, as per your request. I will be glad to  
furnish you any additional information.

Yours very truly,

EF:AH

E. D. FLETCHER



190-1

RICHARD TAYLOR ROBINSON, JR.  
1121-4 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

August 3, 1922.

Mr. Ed. Fletcher,  
920 Eighth Street,  
San Diego, California.

Dear Mr. Fletcher:-

Both yesterday and today I tried several times to communicate with you by telephone to advise you that Mr. Judson and I regret that existing circumstances will not permit us to take advantage of your proposition to sell to us 200 acres of land near Del Mar.

Thanking you for your offer, I beg to remain

Very truly yours,

*Richard T. Robinson, Jr.*

DHN

August 11, 1922.

Mr. R. T. Robinson, Jr.,  
First National Bank Bldg.,  
San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Robinson:

Enclosed find permit for yourself and party, which I am pleased to send you, and I do hope you will use it often and get some pleasure out of it.

Yours sincerely,

KLM



October 19, 1922

Messrs. G. S. Judson and  
R. T. Robinson, Jr.,  
San Diego, California.

Gentlemen:

In answer to Mr. Judson's request, I submit the following strictly confidential letter for your consideration relative to the proposed plan of consolidating the Cuyamaca and Sweetwater systems, the reasons why it should be done, and the benefits to be accrued.

The present development of the Sweetwater system can very little more than take care of its present consumers. I have a plan of inexpensive development that can increase the supply of water at least two or three thousand acre feet, but the elevation is so low, and it costs so much for pumping, together with the fact that there are so many hundred acres of land that can be irrigated from the Sweetwater system by gravity, included in the cities of Chula Vista, National City, etc. that will need water, together with the growth of the above mentioned communities, it would be a mistake to attempt to divert the water from the Sweetwater system to the lands that Mr. Judson owns, excepting possibly a limited area.

The records show that with no further additions to the Sweetwater dam, there will be no wastage of water over the Sweetwater spillway but 5 years out of 30. The elevation of Sweetwater dam is approximately 220 ft. above sea level; Murray dam 550 ft.; Eucalyptus dam at the end of our flume at La Mesa 620 ft. At slight expense a pipe line can be constructed from Eucalyptus territory at the end of our flume to Sweetwater dam, a distance of roughly 6 miles, and develop some of San Diego's best back country. This pipe line should be of good size, and in the winter can be used to store in Sweetwater dam the surplus waters of the San Diego river which we cannot store in Murray dam. It is also ready for any emergency, and I suppose you are aware that there were three or four years in succession when Sweetwater dam was empty.

The pipe line connecting the Cuyamaca and Sweetwater systems can be used at all times for two purposes - developing the territory between Sweetwater dam and the Cuyamaca connection, also by an extension of three or four miles from

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Sweetwater dam, water can be put on 8,000 or 10,000 acres controlled by Harrison and Judson, on a basis that will be worth while from a real estate standpoint.

Attached hereto is a letter from our superintendent, Mr. Harritt, furnishing a lot of facts and figures that will be of interest, and particularly showing that the Cuyamaca System is capable of a large water development that will more than take care of the irrigation of the Harrison and Judson lands.

Again, very few realize the value of our tremendous underground storage of water that can be secured in an emergency thru the El Monte pumping plant owned by the Cuyamaca system, now installed and ready at a moment's notice. We have pumped as high as 5 or 6 million gallons daily. It can be kept up during the irrigating season, for years, and a duplicate plant can be installed for an expense of \$50,000 in 90 days' time in case of emergency, and the water pumped for not to exceed 5 cents a thousand gallons. The Cuyamaca Water Company has secured the right to pump water from the lands below the pump to Lakeside, that might possibly be affected by pumping. The valuable thing is that there are many billion gallons of water in the sands above, with very little land above to irrigate, which makes it impossible for the water to get away from us. It materially increases the value of the Sweetwater system to have a reserve such as the Cuyamaca System can furnish and at an elevation to furnish water by gravity.

The two systems should be under one management for economical operation. I believe \$20,000 to \$25,000 per annum can be saved in operating expenses alone if under one management. I notice that the operating expenses alone for the Sweetwater System for the year 1920, not including the interest on the bonds or depreciation was \$52,837.00. but as to how much of this really went into capital I do not know.

The City of San Diego has paid approximately \$9,000,000 for the development of its present water supply. - This I understand does not include the cost of its distribution system within the city limits - or approximately \$1,000,000 for each million gallons of water delivered at the city limits. I am taking Mr. Savage's estimate of net safe yield, altho our engineer says they have a net safe yield of only approximately 8 million gallons daily.



With the complete development of the Cuyamaca system, including the building of the Fletcher dam, 172 ft. high and the South Fork dam, at a cost not to exceed \$900,000, this would give us 19,000 acre feet per annum according to our superintendent's report, or a net safe yield of between 6 and 7 million gallons daily, not including our pumping possibilities. Based on the city's cost, our Cuyamaca System when this development is made, would be worth \$6,000,000 or \$7,000,000 at least, and our water properties will materially increase in value from year to year, and become a fine interest paying investment.

My hope is that we can control the Sweetwater and Cuyamaca Systems, make some money out of the real estate end of it, have a safe investment and build the combined systems up, permanent construction wherever possible, and hold the property until a valuation is put on it by the courts, - and that valuation will be a very substantial amount, running into the millions. The reproduction cost of our present Cuyamaca systems is approximately \$2,500,000 today and the Sweetwater system must be at least \$1,500,000 or \$2,000,000.

The City of San Diego, according to Mr. Savage, has increased its demand for water this year over 1 million gallons daily. With the removal of the Naval Training Station this fall from San Francisco to San Diego, with the increased development of our Marine Base, etc., together with our normal growth, it is expected that the increase will be at least 2 million gallons daily next year. The average use of water for San Diego during the year 1921 was approximately 10-1/2 million gallons daily. The estimated amount for 1922 is 11-1/2 million gallons; for 1923 - 13 1/2 million gallons. With the city's present net safe yield of 9 million, and 2 million a day from Lake Hodges, making 11 million gallons daily, it is only a question of time when San Diego is going to run dry if they do not make further development, and they are going to get at it in the very near future. There is no question but what they are going into the San Diego river within the next year or two, and start something. There is some talk on the streets that the Cuyamaca System should be purchased next by the city. The question of building El Capitan is practically eliminated. They will either build in Mission Gorge or purchase the Cuyamaca System. Mr. Savage's report will be out in a few days. It will favor Mission Gorge.

In acquiring the Murray estate's 10/12ths interest in the Cuyamaca System, it would include, of course, all the properties that the water company controls, including the Fletcher damsite and reservoir site, so-called, excepting 200 acres that we have not yet acquired but are now condemning in court. It includes all the reservoir site on South Fork which we have acquired from the government. It would include all our riparian rights up and down the river. We have a large share of these rights and no one protested the construction of Fletcher dam before the Water Commission.

As you know, within the last few weeks the State of California has recognized our ownership of all the water of the San Diego River at our point of diversion at the diverting dam, and has given us five years in which to complete the construction of the Fletcher dam, and we have a letter from them that any litigation with the city would act as an estoppel in our favor as regards time limit. The Federal Power Commission has also recognized our ownership of the water, and within the last week has given us permission to use government lands to build our power project on the San Diego river above the diverting dam and below Cuyamaca lake.

I believe that this power project can be financed by the Gas Company on an arrangement mutually satisfactory, whereby we get a revenue, the amount to be decided upon by the State Railroad Commission for the use of the water. But the added advantage is that there is a big saving in our water supply by taking the water out of its natural channels and confining it in cement ditches and pipe lines. There is approximately a 30 percent loss between Cuyamaca Lake and the diverting dam, with a fall of 3500 feet, and eventually two power plants will be installed between the two points above mentioned, and a fine revenue received from the sale of power, as well as a materially increased net safe yield on account of the saving in water.

The flume is in shape, with the exception of 3 miles which should be re-lined in the next two or three years, and has a life of at least 10 years. At the end of that time we ought to plan a permanent re-construction of five miles a year.

Murray dam alone, when full, holds enough water to take care of all the demands on it from La Mesa west for three years. This does not include any demands for water



from the city. I have no fear that the City of San Diego can ever win its suit. Our attorneys absolutely assure us that San Diego was not a pure pueblo, but was a presidio instead, and there was no grant of water except thru a pure pueblo, and there are only two in the state, Los Angeles and Santa Clara.

Then again the question of estoppel comes in. We have had 35 years' undisputed possession and use of this water. The city recognized our ownership and for 8 or 10 years bought water from us. They even passed an official resolution urging the construction of the Fletcher dam, so-called, during the war, and it is a cinch they cannot take away from us what water we have diverted and put to beneficial use. The very worst that could happen is the loss of the water that goes over our spillways.

There is no reason why we should not commence the construction of the Fletcher dam at any time, and if the city enjoined us, we could submit a proposition to the people on referendum and beat them out, for we have the sympathy of a large majority of the people in this city in any water development, and we could, as an added inducement, offer to furnish them 2 or 3 million gallons a day at their option, or any surplus we had at 10 cents a hundred cubic feet or 10 cents a thousand gallons delivered at the city limits. This would save the city any added bond issue and I am sure they are sick of voting bonds. One illustration: Mr. Savage, when costs were the highest in 1917-1918, made an estimate of the cost of Barrett dam at \$861,000, to hold 16 billion gallons, and when he got thru Barrett dam only holds 12 billion gallons of water and it cost \$1,650,000.

Again, the cities of East San Diego, El Cajon and La Mesa are going to intervene on the Cuyamaca Water Company's side to protect their present and future supply, and I do not think on referendum the people of San Diego will vote to take water away from their life blood - the back country. There is already talk of a referendum next spring in making the city council withdraw its suit against the Cuyamaca Water Company, and I believe it will carry.

You have seen the original report of the State Engineer of California to the La Mesa Irrigation District, placing a value of \$1,451,850 on the Cuyamaca System dated August 12, 1919. Since that time over \$150,000 has been added to the capital in the improvements and development of the property.

You have seen the sworn statement of our secretary, Mr. Mathews, a copy of which is herewith attached, showing

that the cost of the Murray estate's 10/12ths interest in the Cuyamaca System to date of December 21, 1921 was \$980,217.06; that there has gone into the system in addition nearly \$180,000 or profits, 10/12ths of which is \$150,000, making \$1,130,217.06 as the cost of the Murray estate's interest as of January 1st, 1922. This does not include interest since that date, profit made by the water company or money put into improvements.

I have, for four months, had the verbal promise of the executor that I shall dispose of the Murray estate's interest providing it is sold within a reasonable time. In fact, I have a definite verbal option, and I am going to San Francisco to get it in writing this coming week, and I will be in a position this coming week to submit you a definite proposition if you are interested. I have two other parties who I believe I can interest, but I prefer to do business with you if you are interested, and would be pleased to know by Monday next if you care to consider a definite proposition.

I own an undivided 1/12th interest in the Cuyamaca System which is free and clear of encumbrance.

I believe I can get Mr. C. F. Stern, vice-president of the First National Bank of Los Angeles to buy out Mr. Henshaw's interest and help us in re-financing the whole project, paying off the old bonds of the Sweetwater system and paying off the Murray estate indebtedness. Mr. Stern was former state superintendent of banks, and will soon be president of the First National Bank of Los Angeles, the bank that has the most deposits of any bank in the state of California. If it were not that advisable to pay off the bonds of the Sweetwater system, I believe the Murray estate would be willing to accept our bonds on the Cuyamaca system for any deferred payments. I feel sure we can get together on a satisfactory valuation of Sweetwater and Cuyamaca systems for a consolidation later on.

Kindly let me know if you are interested.

Yours sincerely,

ED FLETCHER

EF:KLM



File 199-1

November  
thirteen  
1922

Mr. R. T. Robinson, Jr.,  
First National Bank Bldg.,  
San Diego, California

My dear Mr. Robinson:

Enclosed herewith find copy of letter from Mr. Stern, and information asked for, all of which is explanatory. I am getting out the information on our Cuyamaca System. Will you kindly do likewise on the Sweetwater at the earliest date possible.

My suggestion is that the Stern letter be kept confidential.

Yours sincerely,

EF:KLM

Dictated Nov. 10

100-1

November  
EIGHTEEN  
1922

Mr. R. T. Robinson, Jr.,  
First National Bank Bldg.,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Robinson:

Enclosed find statement showing Mr. Henshaw's actual cost for his one-twelfth interest in the Cuyamaca system, for your confidential information.

I suppose you saw by the paper that we have won our victory in the Supreme Court, knocking out all the water right contracts of the Cuyamaca system. That suit in the last two years has cost us \$15,000, and that work has been done for the benefit of the Sweetwater Water Company as well, for it has a direct bearing on your company. Never mind, don't send me a check for \$7500, for I won't take it!

Sincerely yours,

EF:KLM



**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 22 Folder: 28**

**General Correspondence - Robinson, Richard Taylor**



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