

Sept. 21, 1914.

Mr. Melville Klauber, Pres.,
Bank of Commerce & Trust,
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Klauber:

I want you to go over our water system; the Volcan system particularly. When can you go? I also want you to understand thoroughly what our proposition is. If you come back and still knock I have nothing to say, and will respect your opinion, but until you do thoroughly inspect the matter I feel that you are doing me an injustice. All that I ask for is a chance to present our case and certainly your sense of fair play must at least recognize that my request is only a reasonable one.

With kind personal regards, and hoping, at an early date, that you can go over the system with me, I remain,

Yours very truly,

EF:BB

KLAUBER WANGENHEIM CO.

WHOLESALE GROCERS
LIQUORS, CIGARS AND TOBACCOS
TEAS AND COFFEES

SAN DIEGO, CAL.

Sept. 22, 1914.

Mr. Ed. Fletcher,

920 Eighth St.,

San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

I am in receipt of your letter of Sept. 21st in which you ask me to go over your water system, particularly the Volcan System.

I shall be glad to go over the System with you at any time. My opposition to the Volcan Proposition, however, has nothing to do with the question whether you have the water which you say you have or not.

Granting that you have the water, the City is financially in no position to issue bonds to buy it.

Our bonded indebtedness is now \$10,700,000.00. In 1915 the tax payers of the City will just commence to learn what a burden the interest and sinking fund on the present outstanding bonds constitute saying nothing about any further bond issue.

In my judgment the time has come when a determined opposition must be made to any further bond issues.

Any increase of our present bond issue will in my judgment cause practical cessation of any further development in the City, together with a dead real estate investment market and a heavy burden on all business and industry.

All of these I consider entirely unnecessary.

KLAUBER WANGENHEIM Co.

WHOLESALE GROCERS
LIQUORS, CIGARS AND TOBACCOS
TEAS AND COFFEES

SAN DIEGO, CAL.

Granting that we need water, we can get enough for emergency purposes by pumping out of the San Diego River bed and the Tijuana River bed with a very slight expense, to take care of our present entire daily consumption.

The wells now being installed opposite Texas St. in the Mission Valley alone are expected to produce four million gallons per day. We can put in a pumping station in the Tijuana, put in the necessary pipe lines, buy the water bearing lands, etc., for a total cost of not to exceed \$50,000.00 to produce 2,500,000 gallons of water per day.

The present financial condition of the City are critical and ordinary prudence demands that we get water without the issue of further bonds, and we can do so without the slightest difficulty.

Very truly yours,
Melville Klauber

MK/D

- Copy -

Official Copy

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, Sept. 28, 1914.

Mr. Melville Klauber,

San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Klauber:

I am in receipt of yours of the 22nd, and contents noted.

I want to thank you for your frankness, for I believe that you are ^{absolutely} sincere, and at least will give the other side of the water question a fair hearing. At an early date I want to take you over the system.

Referring to the question of bonded indebtedness, as being your reason for opposing the purchase of the system, let me put it up to you in this way:

By voting \$1,000,000 in bonds, the city forever controls both these water sheds - the San Luis Rey and the Pano - for future development of at least 23,000,000 minimum daily, enough to supply a city of 300,000. This million dollars of bonds are sold the day they are ready for delivery, for Mr. Henshaw agrees to buy them at par and accrued interest. For five, ten, fifteen or twenty years thereafter the city does not have to vote another dollar in bonds, unless desired. All it has to do is to pay the interest and sinking fund on this million dollars in bonds.

The voting of this million dollars in bonds relieves for years to come the water situation, for it guarantees the delivery of 10,000,000 gallons a day into the city of San Diego, at a reasonable price, and as this water is sold the revenue collected from said sale of water by the city will more than take care of the purchase price of the water.

Major Fay, in his statement before the Federated Societies, said that with the operation of pumping plants in the Tia Juana and San Diego Rivers, the flood waters to be had from the Cuyamaca system and the present supply on hand, we have hardly a year's supply, providing San Diego's system furnishes no more water this year than either of the last two

M. K.,

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years, and yet last year's rainfall was over 12% above the average, in San Diego County. The daily average consumption this year is in excess of 8,000,000 gallons; next year's average is estimated at 11,000,000 gallons. Where is the water coming from, and are we not as a city taking desperate chances? You are well aware that all authorities agree that any city of this size should have at least three year's supply of water always on hand.

What has made San Diego grow, but the fact that when she had but 25,000 people Mr. Sreckels commenced the building of the present water system? Then everybody knew that there was plenty of water. And how the town has grown! It is marvelous! Now, we have nearly 100,000 and, just as sure as the Lord makes little apples, if the City of San Diego takes over the Volcan system confidence will be restored, the city will commence to grow, and we will have 200,000 people five years from now.

Then this present bonded indebtedness of \$10,000,000 that you refer to will be simply a bagatelle and easily taken care of by our increase in values and population; whereas, if the city stultifies itself by refusing to settle this water question it will be indeed a hard burden for all of us to bear.

Look at the history of Los Angeles to prove it. Why, I know of five or six different prominent people and manufacturing firms the last four months who have gone to Los Angeles rather than settle in San Diego on account of our water question.

You talk about the wells opposite Texas Street furnishing 4,000,000 gallons of water daily. Inside of three months, Mr. Whitney says the water plane will be so lowered that they will only be pumping 2,000,000 to 2,500,000 gallons. In the Tia Juana River you will find that it will be impossible to develop any more water than from the Texas Street plant, and you may be interested to know that when we get to pumping water out of the San Diego River our total daily pumping expenses will be in excess of \$400 a day, or in excess of \$150,000 a year.

Another thing, when you start these pumping plants in the San Diego River and the Tia Juana River you are going to have endless litigation and will have to pay many thousands of dollars in damages and buy up \$200,000 or \$300,000 worth of ranches as well.

All I want, Melville, is for you to go over this whole water question in an unbiased manner. I shall be very glad to

M. K.,

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take you and your business friends on a trip of investigation of the Volcan proposition; also the Cuyamaca. It will only take two days, and then if you come back and oppose it I will have nothing to say; but I do claim that before anyone knocks this proposition they should thoroughly investigate it, and I feel that I have a right, under the circumstances, to request a personal investigation from all of those representative men who are at the present time opposing the acquisition of these systems.

The Cuyamaca system can be taken over for \$1,000,000, and these two systems, when fully developed, can furnish as much water as the City of San Francisco is now getting from the Spring Valley Water Company, 35,000,000 gallons daily, and for which they are paying \$34,000,000. This Spring Valley system the City of San Francisco could have bought ten years ago for \$10,000,000.

When the city has paid the Cuyamaca and the Volcan companies what they are asking, and have fully developed the water sheds of the Cuyamaca and the Volcan systems, they will have as cheap water per thousand gallons as there is in Southern California, and we have the best engineers in the state to corroborate my statements.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Wangenheim, Dr. Thorne, Mr. W. L. Frevert, and Messrs. Frank Belcher, Chas. Williams, Simon Levi and Mr. F. Heller, and if you want to invite three or four others, all well and good - it will be perfectly satisfactory to me. I should like to take twelve or fifteen prominent business men of this city, and go over the system, and I hope you can see your way clear to arrange to make up a party for week after next, at any time that suits your convenience.

I shall consider this a personal favor.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Ed Fletcher.

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Oct. 1, 1918.

Mr. Melville Klauber,
President Chamber of Commerce,
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Klauber:

Enclosed find copy of letter that

I have written Councilman Bruschi today, which is explanatory. Mr. Bruschi has agreed verbally to get Deputy City Attorney Thorpe to draw up a resolution and have it presented to the Council. The fact of the matter is that it is Cosgrove who has been blocking this whole game since last June and I cannot borrow the money from the banks to put the El Cajon pipeline in shape unless I have this contract.

Yours very truly,

F-S

MELVILLE KLAUBER
404-408 SOUTHERN TITLE BLDG.
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

February 4, 1924.

Col. Ed Fletcher,
920 Eighth St.,
San Diego, California.

My dear Ed:

In conformity with your suggestion I am handing you herewith description of the 80 acres of land we own east of Del Mar and near San Dieguito Valley:

All of the Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter (Lot 2) of Section Eighteen Township 14 South Range 3 West, S.B.M., containing 40.70 acres more or less, and

All of the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section Eighteen, Township Fourteen South Range Three West S.B.M., containing 40 acres more or less.

Our price on this piece is \$50 per acre. To a responsible party we will take 10% down balance in annual installments with interest at 6% per annum, subject to usual commission of 5% -- we reserving the right to sell direct or through any other parties without notice-- in other words this is not an exclusive sale arrangement.

Very truly yours,

Melville Klauber President
KLAUBER WANGENHEIM CO.

San Diego, California,
June 12th, 1924.

Hon. Melville Klauber, Chairman,
"Citizens' Water Committee",
Southern Title Building,
San Diego, California.

Dear Sir:-

In compliance with the request of Mayor Bacon that each member of the General Committee submit to your Committee such questions as they consider pertinent, I beg to offer the following for your consideration.

1. In estimating the cost of the proposed development at dam site No. 2 Mission Gorge, what ~~should~~ be allowed for the acquisition of the lands to be overflowed up to the 365 foot contour and the 400 foot contour respectively?
2. What is the actual value of this property at the present time?
3. Which is the proper way to value the land? Should it be taken with its present value with water on it or should it be assumed that the land owner has no right to the water?
4. In the proposed development of dam site No. 3 Mission Gorge, what would it cost to acquire the lands to be overflowed to the 310 foot contour?
5. If a dam were constructed to the 350 foot contour at Mission Site No. 3, would it impound more or less water than the one proposed at dam site No. 2?
6. Where would the evaporation loss be the greater, at No. 3 or No. 2?
7. How many years should it take to fill the reservoir at Mission Gorge No. 2 to the 365 foot contour and how many years to the 400 foot contour?
8. If a dam were built at dam site No. 3, would there have to be pumping in order to get the water into the city?

9. In ordinary seasons how many inches will evaporation lower the water?
10. Should the construction of a dam at any of these sites be made contingent upon the City prevailing in its present suit to establish its paramount rights to the waters of the San Diego River?
11. Would it be feasible to construct two dams, one at Mission Gorge Site No. 3 and the other at Mission Gorge Site No. 2?
12. Should the City acquire the option that the La Mesa, Lemon Grove and Spring Valley Irrigation District now holds upon the Cuyamaca Water System?
13. What is the present value of the water rights now claimed by the holders of lands in El Cajon Valley, proposed to be flooded, assuming that the City loses its suit?
14. Assuming that the City is successful in its suit and establishes its paramount rights to the water of the San Diego River as against the Cuyamaca Water Company, would the judgment be binding upon other property owners or would the City have to litigate the same question with them?
15. Assuming that the City is successful and establishes its paramount right to the waters of the San Diego River, does this necessarily mean that the water which is now being diverted by the Cuyamaca Water Company would belong to the City to the exclusion of the people who have used it for many years past? For instance, La Mesa, Kensington Park, Normal Heights, East San Diego and Lakeside?
16. What is the value of the real estate and improvements of the town of Santee?
17. If the railroad to Lakeside is flooded, is there a feasible route for its reconstruction and what would be the cost?
18. If the present highway to Lakeside were flooded, what would a new highway cost and what would be the route?
19. If the same amount of water, say 90,000 acre feet, is stored in No. 2 and No. 3, what would be the evaporation loss in each case?

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) CURTIS HILLYER

MELVILLE KLAUBER
San Diego

COPY.

Aug. 14, 1924

Mr. E. H. Dowell,
Labor Temple,
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Dowell:

In relation to the Arrowrock Dam referred to in your memo. please note the following information:

This dam is a gravity section curved arch dam, 223 feet thick at the base, and carries a 16 ft, roadway on the top. Its cost was about 5 million dollars. It is in a general way the same type dam as Otay and Barrett, (planned and constructed by Engineer Savage) , but it is a much larger structure being 348 ft high from the foundation.

The Shoshone Dam is a monolithic rubble concrete structure. Height from foundation 328ft., 108 ft. wide at riverbed and 10ft. wide on top.

H. N. Savage was one of the Board of Engineers which planned the dam and H. N. Savage was the Supervising Engineer of it. This dam is also curved upstream and was also I believe an expensive structure costing over 5 millions of dollars.

Both of these dams were built by the U. S. Reclamation Service.

Very truly yours,

Melville Klauber.

November 14, 1924.

Mr. Melville Klauber,
Southern Title Bldg.,
San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Klauber:

Confirming your telephone request today, will say the Cuyamaca Water Company drove a tunnel 90 feet into the north side of El Capitan damsite No. 1 and did not find solid rock in place for bedrock.

We went in approximately 110 feet on the south side and found the same condition -- every indication of slides.

We have never made any explorations at El Capitan No. 2. The only explorations that have ever been made are the records of Mr. Savage with his core drillings, also some small excavations, five to ten feet deep, made by Mr. Williams on the instructions of Mr. Freeman. The only records that are of any value whatsoever at either site No. 1 or No. 2, outside of those made by the Cuyamaca Water Company are the core drillings of Mr. Savage.

The Cuyamaca Water Company, did own, but the irrigation district now controls thru its contract with us, both El Capitan damsites Nos. 1 and 2. El Capitan damsite No. 1 is wholly on irrigation district property, and No. 2 is wholly on irrigation district property except a small piece on the north side of the river, which is in forest reserve.

Yours very truly,

EF:KIM

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 15 Folder: 11

General Correspondence - Klauber, Melville



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