

May 12, 1925.

Mr. Paul C. Edwards,  
San Diego Sun,  
San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Edwards:

I have read Mr. Treanor's letter of April 20th with interest. It is remarkably well presented, but absolutely misleading as to facts. I will return it tomorrow or the next day with certain suggestions for your continued investigation.

In the mean time, I suggest that you write Mr. Treanor, San Diego County Water Co., 724 So. Spring St., Los Angeles, and ask him the following questions:

First: To give an estimated cost of the super dam and the cost of the pipeline to the University Heights reservoir.

Second: Would it include all the lands that would be flooded by the building of the super dam, and does it include Sutherland and Pamo damsites and reservoir lands flooded as well?

Third: Does it include all the riparian rights on the river as his letter would indicate so that there would be no conflict in case Sutherland Dam was built?

Fourth: Based on your present 30 year plan, what would it cost for the property as it stands today, and based on an outright purchase and payment in full at the present time by the city?

I hope you will write a letter asking these questions, as the answer will help to enlighten the situation materially to all of us.

Yours very truly,

EF:AH

## HISTORY

Mr. John Treanor called on Mr. Edwards of the Sun at nine o'clock the morning of May 12th and said that he was being forced by citizens of San Diego to submit publicly a definite plan of sale of the Lake Hodges system to the city, and he would like to have the Sun's support, and what did Edwards think of the plan?

Mr. Edwards said he had not had time to go over it fully, was going out in the country that afternoon and did not have time to discuss it with him. Mr. Treanor said it was important that he get a definite commitment from the Sun and would await his return at five o'clock in the afternoon.

Edwards asked me for the return of the letter as Treanor had asked for it once or twice during the conversation, so I returned it, and took Edwards and Raber of the power company on a trip that afternoon up to Cuyamaca and down the river, arriving home at five o'clock.

Treanor

Edwards met Treanor again and urged him for immediate action. Attached is copy of my letter to Edwards.

I went up to Porterfield's house for dinner that evening. The Mayor was there and Edwards. Edwards told me that a committee of the council was going to Los Angeles the next morning to see Treanor and that Treanor was pushing the proposition hard.

I arrived in Los Angeles yesterday morning, May 13th, 1925 and had a chance to go over the whole matter with Stern. He told me to get the La Mesa, El Cajon and San Diego Chambers of Commerce to wire the Railroad Commission to approve the transfer, and also have a Normal Heights committee appeal to the council to take over the distribution lines.

Just then Treanor rang up and I skipped out. Treanor came over and said that everything was off as far as he was concerned. He had been doing the very best he could to help put the deal over, and Fletcher had balled the whole situation up. He commenced to knock me and Stern told him he did not want to hear a word of it, that I was his partner and he had confidence in me. Treanor said he did not think his offer to the city was competitive with the Cuyamaca. He wanted to cooperate in every way he could but he could not cooperate with Fletcher. Stern said, ("I have my suspicions about Treanor now, but I have 100 percent confidence in you, Ed, and I want you to go ahead along the lines we planned this morning.")

I came back last night and got the La Mesa and El Cajon Chambers of Commerce to promise to take action this morning and this afternoon they meet with the San Diego Chamber urging action.

*Higgins*

July 6, 1925.

Mr. Paul Edwards,  
San Diego Sun,  
San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Edwards:

On Friday I met City Attorney Higgins in Santa Ana, and asked him to answer me one question -- Why did Higgins stultify himself by not taking the initiative and urge the submitting of the question to a vote of the people ratifying the Railroad Commission compromise between the district and the city, after the Irrigation District and the State Engineer, Mr. McClure, had accepted Mr. Rhodes' plan of dividing the waters of the San Diego River.

Higgins answered that he had never heard of any such thing and had no knowledge that the state engineer had accepted Mr. Rhodes' plan.

I asked him, "Were you not aware of the letter written by the State Engineer of California to Mayor Bacon, accepting the Rhodes plan?" He said, "Absolutely no!" I said, "Were you not aware of the fact that the Board of Directors of the Irrigation District gave the State Engineer of California authority to act for them in settling the question as to what was a 'reasonable supply', and both the Board of Directors of the District and the State Engineer had approved Rhodes' plan?" Higgins answered, "Absolutely not, otherwise we would not be fighting and litigating here today. My understanding is that the district stood pat on 9 million gallons a day and is the reason why we are spending a thousands of dollars here at Santa Ana as the city council would not stand for it."

Mr. Edwards, these facts should be put before the public and whoever is to blame for this endless and senseless litigation in Santa Ana should be made to pay the penalty. Is it not time for you to take some strong, forcible attitude? And demand that now that the city and district are in absolute agreement that the city council

-2-

pass an ordinance calling an election to ratify the Railroad Commission plan.

I will do everything I can to support it and bring about harmony between the district and the city. As you know, the Railroad Commission has approved the sale to the district. Our deed is in escrow with the title company and the La Mesa Irrigation District, in the next week or two will, to all intents, be operating the Cuyamaca System, only waiting the final sale of the bonds.

The city has been forced to amend its complaint two different times since the trial started, and enter two stipulations as well, with the result that today the city is absolutely getting nothing on which it can even get a toe-hold, for they have had to stipulate that they will only build the dam 150 feet high, and in his decision, the Judge will make a reservation in our favor, to the uninterrupted flow of the stream, reserving to the district the right to pump any underground waters below, or store any waters above, also reserving any riparian rights or water rights that the district may have on the river to the district. Then again, the city will be compelled to bring another suit, for they have failed to include the Murray Estate as defendant, who own a five-sixths interest in this land of record. They they have another suit to continue pumping thru lands in the reservoir site which we own, which were not included in the first suit. They will have to bring another suit to flood our siphons in the Indian reservation and another suit to be determined on the paramount right question --- all before they ever will be allowed to build a dam at El Capitan, a matter of five or ten years.

They talk about being able to put up a bond, but it is a joke and they cannot do it until the water question is settled. The Judge admitted on the stand that he should have tried the paramount right suit first, but they had gotten so far along they might as well see it thru and render the decision on the whole thing at one time. Up to this date the Judge has not rendered a decision as to whether the city has the right to condemn until all the evidence is in.

I am going to Santa Ana today and leave Wednesday for a ten days' vacation in the Sierras, so am putting everything in writing as a record for your guidance. Enclosed find copy of correspondence with Mr. McClure for your records.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

April Twenty-fifth,  
1 9 2 9

Mr. Paul Edwards,  
San Diego Sun,  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mr. Edwards:

That was a frightful picture of me that you printed the  
other day. It is more than twenty years old.

I am sending you one of the latest.

Yours truly,

EF:AK

May Seventh,  
1 9 2 9

Mr. Paul Edwards,  
San Diego Sun,  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Enclosed find copy of letter I have written Mr. Sauer  
regarding the El Cajon Acres matter which is NOT for  
publication as I do not want any more publicity that I  
can help in any controversy with Mr. Sauer.

Yours very truly,

EF:AK

May Twenty-third,  
1 9 2 9

Mr. Paul Edwards, Editor,  
San Diego Sun,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Paul:

Enclosed find clipping from May 21st Sun that is explanatory.

I don't think it is a friendly act for you to have my name included in this article particularly after all my denials.

You know Mr. Sauer's reputation.

You don't see my advertisements in his papers and I refuse to pay him tribute.

You probably saw his accounts as an attack on me in relation thereto and enclosed find copy of my reply which he failed to publish.

I don't believe that you personally had anything to do with this but whoever on your paper is responsible for keeping up this publicity is doing me an injustice and I resent it.

Very sincerely yours,

EF:AK

July Twelfth,  
1 9 2 9

Mr. Paul Edwards, Editor,  
San Diego Sun,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Edwards:

Enclosed find Judge Sloane's brief. It will only take a few minutes to read it. Please do so.

The human element enters into it as no other brief that I have ever read, and in the language of a common lay-man we can understand.

I hope you will present our side of the question through your newspaper in the interest of fair play to the La Mesa people and I will consider it forever a personal favor.

Sincerely yours,

EF:AK

July 20th, 1929.

Mr. Paul Edwards  
San Diego Sun  
San Diego, California.

My dear Paul:

I do appreciate your editorial of last night on the water question.

Enclosed find copy of brief of Judge Slocum, also copy of letter that I am sending each water consumer in the Irrigation District, also to 1000 of the influential citizens of San Diego.

I do want to see San Diego prosper. I don't want to be in the light of an objectionist. On the other hand, they must have water in the years to come to live and grow. They have had the nerve to develop this water, pay for it themselves and are entitled to the benefits of an irrigating rate which costs them about one-third of the cost of the City of San Diego water.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

EF:GMF

July 26th, 1929.

Mr. Paul Edwards, Editor  
San Diego Sun  
San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Edwards:

Enclosed find copy of my reply to telegram of Mr. Rankin of Tax Factors, Inc. as published in one paper that I know of last Saturday afternoon.

I wish you would read it carefully and bring out in proper headlines the assessment of 50¢ a foot in Santa Margarita Ranch for paved highway influence and \$25 a foot on University Avenue. In one case, Santa Margarita Ranch pays nothing for the highway and in the other case the property owner paid for the highway.

I am going to write a series of articles giving individual appraisements and comparison with the Santa Margarita and other ranches that is purely a matter of education and every statement will be authentic before I make it so that there can be no come back.

It is a most outrageous piece of favoritism and as well as unfair appraisement that could be imagined. I have already spent hundreds of dollars making this investigation and probably know more about it than any outsider in the county.

I would appreciate your running this Saturday afternoon.

Yours very truly,

EF:GMF  
Encl.

August First,  
1 9 2 9

Mr. Paul Edwards,  
San Diego Sun,  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Enclosed find itinerary of the Old Spanish Trail  
that may be of interest.

Yours truly,

EF:AK

September Tenth,  
1 9 2 9

Mr. Paul Edwards,  
San Diego Sun,  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Enclosed find literature that is explanatory  
and for your information.

Yours very truly,

EF:AK

September 17th, 1929.

Mr. Paul Edwards  
San Diego Sun  
San Diego, California.

My dear Paul:

Enclosed find articles that I thought might  
interest you.

I thank you for your editorial regarding "World's  
Work".

Yours very truly,

EF:GMF  
Encl.

September Twentieth,  
1929

Mr. Paul Edwards,  
San Diego Sun,  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Enclosed find copy of letter from the Broadway of  
America that is right to the point.

This is the strongest organization across the  
continent and I would certainly hate to see  
Los Angeles become the Pacific terminus. That  
is my opinion will be the result of lack of  
cooperation on the part of the San Diego-  
California Club and the Chamber of Commerce  
with the Broadway of America movement.

Yours truly,

EF:AK

October 2, 1929.

Mr. Paul C. Edwards,  
San Diego Sun,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Paul:

Thanks for that rattling good editorial  
in tonight's paper. You are with us 100 percent and  
I assure you I appreciate it more than you know.

Yours sincerely,

EF:  
KLM

October 17th, 1929.

Mr. Paul Edwards, Editor  
San Diego Sun  
San Diego, California.

Dear Mr. Edwards:

No one could have done better than you and your  
organization in helping the Community Chest Campaign,  
but as you know we are behind.

Conditions financially are much worse than last year.

The following is not for publication, but the records  
show that 168 business and establishment divisions in this  
city have given either nothing or greatly reduced their  
donations to the Community Chest, which has caused  
practically all the shortage. In the city employees, the  
fact that the firemen and policemen did not get their  
raise in salary has cut down their subscriptions 50%.  
We have lost several thousand dollars by death, as  
compared to last year, but we are bound to go over the  
top.

I have never seen such spirit in an organization in my  
life. We need your help now more than ever before in the  
matter of publicity and for the good name of San Diego.  
Please go the limit and help us.

There is nothing that will help to make a failure in this  
campaign like taking the Community Chest news off the front  
page. There is nothing that will help the town more than  
to succeed. Today you are more a vital part of our  
organization for success or failure than any other  
instrumentality in this city. Please support us.

Sincerely yours,

EF:GMF



October Twenty-third,  
1 9 2 9

Mr. Paul Edwards,  
San Diego Sun,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Paul:

Enclosed find copy of my article that I have just dictated hurriedly for Saturday's issue.

Let me have your friendly criticism, please and return with the bearer, Mr. Vangeburgh.

I will get the data together for you for Thursday and would like you to run Rainwater's article, his picture, Mrs. Hale, and one or two others of my colonels, including Dr. Campbell with a statement from all of them with their pictures.

If we get everything there by Thursday afternoon can you do this?

I will send the data all over at one time and can get it for you Thursday afternoon.

Yours truly,

EF:AK

October Twenty-ninth,  
1 9 2 9

Mr. Paul C. Edwards,  
Managing Editor,  
San Diego Sun,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Paul:

I cannot thank you enough for the wonderful cooperation received from you in putting over the Community Chest campaign for the largest amount of money that has ever been raised in this community. No single thing has done so much to attain success.

Without your support in any campaign the Chest plea will fail, in my opinion.

I am through taking the leadership, feeling that I have done all that the city has any right to demand of me. It has been hard work, an awful strain but the marvelous backing I received not alone from the papers but from the individual workers has been an inspiration that I will never forget.

Please accept my grateful thanks both personally and on behalf of the campaign workers.

Sincerely yours,

EF:AK

November 15th, 1929.

Mr. Paul Edwards  
San Diego Sun  
1165—7th Street  
San Diego, California.

My dear Paul:

I thought you would enjoy reading the enclosed on National Highway matters. Please return at your early convenience.

Yours very truly,

EF:GMF  
Encl.

November 13th, 1929.

Mrs. Paul Edwards  
1355—28th Street  
San Diego, California.

My dear Mrs. Edwards:

At your suggestion last night I followed up the matter of Mr. and Mrs. George Parker coming into the Assembly.

After a conference with Mrs. Gazlay and our president, Mr. Norman Morison, they authorized an invitation be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Parker to come in to the Assembly.

As you were th originator of the idea and deserve the credit, please extend the invitation.

Yours sincerely,

EF:GMF

November 16th, 1929.

Mr. Paul Edwards  
San Diego Sun  
1165—7th Street  
San Diego, California.

My dear Paul:

Please read the enclosed, but do not give it any publicity. I want to post you a little.

I am asking the County Assessor, Moulton to verify the figures so that I know Mr. Hill's figures are correct.

It is a scream for all of us to have appraised values in excess of what the property will sell for while the Santa Margarita is appraised at 1/4 its value and Henshaw Dam and Sweetwater Dam appraised at less than 1/4 their value.

The Sweetwater Dam and the entire system is only appraised by the Tax Factors at \$645,000. For rate fixing purposes, the State Railroad Commission has given them a value of \$1,900,000, on which they can earn 8% interest, and that would represent a true sales value of around 2½ or 3 million.

The same way with Henshaw Dam, they have only appraised it at \$506,320, which cost 1½ million and the 6000 acres of land that are flooded if they were contained would cost over \$200 an acre according to a dozen precedents heretofore established in this County. In other words, 6000 acres of land that are flooded by the building of Henshaw are only assessed at \$23 an acre.

There are a number of things in connection with this that I want to go into with you a little later on, but thought you would like to read this over first and I will then have a conference with you in the near future.

Please keep this confidential, and oblige,

Yours very truly,

EF:GMF  
Encl.

December Eleventh,  
1929

Mr. Paul C. Edwards,  
San Diego Sun,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Edwards:

For heaven's sake give us some front page stuff on this San Diego Athletic Club matter. Print particularly Mr. White's article.

We have what I think accomplished a miracle during this financial crisis.

I don't want my name mentioned but please give this fete of the Club some front page boosting.

Yours very truly,

EF:AK

December 27th, 1929.

My dear Paul:

Just a word to let you know that Mrs. Fletcher and I are thinking of you and the good wife at this Holiday Season.

You have rendered a distinct service to this community during the past year and I want you to know that I appreciate it.

We wish you Good Health and Happiness during the New Year as well as the Compliments of the Season.

Sincerely your friend,

Mr. Paul Edwards  
San Diego, California.

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F  
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**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 6 Folder: 45**

**General Correspondence - Edwards, Paul C.**



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