

May 8, 1916.

Oceanside Register,

Oceanside, Calif.

Gentlemen:

Under separate cover, I am sending you a cut showing all the water sheds in San Diego County and their area. In your own words, I wish that you would write for the dear public of Oceanside, something of the following statement: That the areas of

Warners Reservoir is	....	210	sq.mi.
Escondido	.....	32	"
Lower San Luis Rey Valley			
from Oceanside	.....	336	"
Pamo Reservoir	.....	110	"
Upper San Diego	.....	92	"
Cuyamaca Reservoir	.....	12	"
Sweetwater Reservoir	....	186	"
Morena Reservoir	.....	105	"
Barrett Reservoir	.....	135	"
Otay	.....	98	"

In other words, the entire water sheds of the City of San Diego, not including either the Escondido or the Warners, is less than the water shed of the San Luis Rey River below the Escondido intake.

Please also call their attention to the fact that the U. S. Government chart shows that the next to the heaviest rainfall on the Pacific Coast is on Palomar mountain, near Nellie, and that many square miles of this territory adjacent to Nellie and higher than Nellie drains into the San Luis Rey Valley and comes to Oceanside, which drainage neither we nor the Escondido people could ever catch.

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Call attention to the fact that there is not less than 200 miners' inches of water at any time of the year, for the last 25 years, flowing down the San Luis Rey Valley just above Pala.

Call attention to the trout in Pamo Creek, which lasts the year round, and comes in below the Escondido intake, as well as the Agua Tibia Creek; the drainage from the Mesa Grande Hills; the four or five living streams in the Indian Reservation, all of which is below the Escondido and Warners Dam intake.

Call particular attention to the flood rushes from the Mesa Grande Hills and from the entire length of the Palomar Mountain on the East, in the winter, which come down past the small 2-ft. intake of the Escondido Dam and go to the ocean, after surcharging the gravels of the San Luis Valley.

Show how ridiculous is the fight they are making. That the total amount of water used by the City of Oceanside is only 40 miners inches a year; and that if the 334 sq.mi. of water shed of the City of San Diego can support a town of 300,000 inhabitants, as well as take care of the farmers along the valleys through which the river flows, then it is capable of doing the same thing for the City of Oceanside, and that it is a waste of time and money to litigate -- money which the City of Oceanside loses forever; while any money that we spend will have to be added to the project, and paid for eventually. That Mr. Henshaw has three or four million dollars invested in this project, and he can never afford to quit until it is completely developed. It is simply

April 18, 1916.

a matter of litigation.

Please get this in Friday's paper, without fail.

Yours very truly,

F-S

copy to news 7/1

Oceanside Blade,
Oceanside, Calif.

Gentlemen:

On my return from a week's trip to the North, my attention has been called to your article published the day before election in which you state that the "sack is open" and connect my name in the article in such a way as to infer that I or my associates have some particular interest in who was or was not elected members of the Board of Trustees of Oceanside. You were very careful not to make any statements that could be considered as libel, which is fortunate for you. I am satisfied the intelligent voter of Oceanside took the article simply as a piece of yellow, sensational journalism.

I did see Dr. Nichols, a short time ago, when in Oceanside; called his attention to the fact that the day is past when any man or set of men can demand the privilege of sitting on the banks of the San Luis Rey River and seeing the water (billions of gallons of it) running to waste to the ocean; and, while I felt that the trustees of Oceanside were making a mistake in spending so much money in litigation, yet I respected Dr. Nichols opinion, and asked the same courtesy from him.

When you realize the fact that in 24 hours enough water passed Oceanside Bridge running to the Ocean, this year, to

fill every reservoir in San Diego County, to say nothing of the terrible flood damage that periodically takes place in the San Luis Rey Valley, it is plain that the City of Oceanside can better afford to pay the Volcan Co. to build Warners Dam than otherwise, for the building of Warners Dam cuts off approximately one-third of the water shed, and still leaves you enough water below to surcharge the sands without a question of doubt -- not in my mind alone, but in the opinion of Government engineers and the best engineering talent in the State of California.

The Volcan Water Co. will not attempt to build Warners Dam until every right is adjudicated on the river. The trustees of Oceanside have already spent several thousand dollars of the city's money, and cannot hope to expend less than \$7,000 or \$8,000 in the Superior Court at the coming trial. It will cost the City of Oceanside at least \$15,000 to make this fight to the Supreme Court in their effort to stop the building of Warners Dam.

Your Mr. Spencer, the owner of the Oceanside Blade, and former trustee of Oceanside, assured me as a brother Mason and a man that if South Oceanside and Carlsbad were irrigated that the City of Oceanside, in his opinion, would have no objection to the building of Warners Dam, and the diversion of the waters of the San Luis Rey at that point. South Oceanside and Carlsbad, partly through my efforts, are now furnished with water from the San Luis Rey Valley.

The citizens of Oceanside should consider the fact that all the

expenses of litigation that we go to is allowable by the State Railroad Commission or any court, and added to the costs of our development; while any money spent by the City of Oceanside in litigation is lost to you forever.

In closing, I want to say that you are well aware, Mr. Spencer, that any action of the Board of Trustees of Oceanside toward giving us the right to build Warners Dam is absolutely void on its face if not approved by the citizens of Oceanside. From the standpoint of promoting the interests of the Volcan Company, we have no interest in the matter of who shall be elected trustees of the City of Oceanside. When we get ready to act, it will be by a petition to call an election, and the people of Oceanside shall decide whether this expensive and useless litigation shall continue. We have nothing to ask of the Board of Trustees of Oceanside, and I consider your article a piece of contemptible, dirty politics, intended to excite the passions and mislead the voters of the City of Oceanside. I have lived in San Diego County twenty-seven years, and am not ashamed of my past record. I don't propose to do anything that deserves condemnation for the sake of my wife and family, even if I had not principal enough for my own sake; and I sincerely hope that in the future, if it is to be a fight, that you will change your tactics and make it a clean one.

Please print this letter in your next issue, on the front page, in the same location as your previous article, and send me bill for same at advertising rates.

Yours very truly,

F-8

April 24, 1916.

Oceanside Blade,

Oceanside, Calif.

Gentlemen:

In your article of April 22nd, you say that my statement on the water question is "mainly remarkable for things that are not true." Let us discuss the subject point by point.

Point 1. You say, "In years of scanty rainfall the water level in the sands of the river in the San Luis Rey Valley would be greatly lowered, and the supply for pumping to a great extent cut off." In answer will say anyone knows water seeks its own level. The City of Oceanside pumps water at a point a few feet above sea-level. Our engineers estimate at least a ten-year's supply of water in the sands of the San Luis Rey River from Rincon to Oceanside for all consumers on the river, providing it does not rain during that period.

Point 2. On January 27, 1916, 87,380 acre-feet, or 28 billion gallons of water, according to measurements of U.S. Government Engineer and other engineers, went past Oceanside into the ocean. On January 28, 1916, 50,210 acre-feet, or 16 billion gallons of water ran into the ocean past Oceanside. The total capacity of Moreno, Upper Otay, Sweetwater, Cuyamaca, La Mesa and Escondido Reservoirs is only thirty billion gallons.

Point 3. You say "Most of the water rights on the river to which the Colonel refers were secured by the promise that the water of the river was to be impounded at Warners and brought

down the river to be used on the land tributary to Oceanside. If the water right owners had known, as they do now, that the plan was to take the water to sell in the South end of the county, Colonel Fletcher would not have many of the rights he now claims."

The above is a misstatement of facts, and I challenge you to produce one man with whom I made any agreement to that effect. The facts are that in order to secure the riparian rights on the San Luis Rey River we purchased 2/3 of the riparian lands themselves for a distance of fifty-odd miles from Warners Dam to Oceanside. The following is a partial list of the properties acquired by outright purchase:

Warners Ranch.....	44,000	acres
Pauma Ranch.....	13,000	"
Madison Smith.....	605	"
R. Fenton.....	2,700	"
Simon Goldbaum.....	798	"
E. V. Stratton.....	40	"
James Cobb.....	245	"
H. B. Stevens.....	288	"
A. Armargo.....	160	"
E. Libbey.....	476	"
Herbert Crouch.....	869	"
Percy Johnson.....	2,400	"
Sarah M. Utt.....	395	"
P. S. Sparkman.....	160	"
Sickler Bros.....	166	"
Frank Emery.....	375	"
T. O. Samuels.....	69	"
J. H. Young.....	160	"
Joseph Jones.....	162	"
D. G. Harrington.....	65	"
R. S. Johnson.....	375	"
W. F. Bartlett.....	300	"
J. M. Crutcher.....	115	"
J. D. Grant.....	160	"
Jane Reed.....	128	"
M. B. Scott.....	160	"
Hayes Land Co.....	52	"
R. D. Lock.....	40	"
F. F. Young.....	28	"

Forward.... 68,490

	Forward, 68,490 acres
Utt Investment Co.....	940 "
F. M. McRae.....	360 "
D. G. Woosley.....	160 "
Geo. D. Stevens.....	80 "
Sarah Anderson.....	495.31 "
E. M. D. Hooper.....	70.00 "
Ada L. Bryan.....	220.00 "
C. A. Craig.....	270.00 "
John Coutts, app.....	233.00 "
Dolores Pico.....	422.86 "
M. S. Peters.....	40.00 "
E. A. Wakeham.....	160.00 "
N. W. Hindle.....	170.00 "
J. Van Kilsdonk.....	35.00 "
C. M. Hermens, about.....	65.
	<hr/>
	72,211.17 "

This does not include a number of small ranches. And we only acquired the right to build Warners Dam from a few individuals. I again demand that you present to the people of Oceanside the name of one man with whom we entered into any agreement to bring water down the San Luis Rey River to Oceanside.

Point 4. Concerning the cost of litigation for the City of Oceanside in the courts, you say I have merely exaggerated the amount eight or ten times with the idea of frightening the people of Oceanside. I ask that the citizens of Oceanside demand that the city council furnish an itemized statement as to the expenditures to date of the litigation of this suit; and that the city trustees secure immediately a written statement from Hunsaker and Britt as to what their charges will be. The charges of your expert engineer alone will be approximately \$50 a day. The transcript of the evidence in this coming hearing will cost at least \$500 or \$600. My statement as to the cost of this litigation was ultra-conservative, and I ought to know, as we have spent, within the last twelve months, over \$40,000

in water litigation. I again repeat that it will cost the City of Oceanside at least \$8000 to \$10000 to continue this litigation. The City of Oceanside loses every dollar that it spends, while every dollar we spend will be added to the cost of our project, and will be returned to us. Being a large property owner in Oceanside, and paying part of this expense, I feel that it is only right that this question of expense should be brought strongly to the attention of the citizens of Oceanside.

I again repeat that Mr. M. W. Spencer assured me that if water was put on the lands of South Oceanside and Carlsbad he would be satisfied, and he felt that the people whom he represented would be. This has been done, and Spencer is still fighting -- and for what reason?

To build Warners Dam and a pipeline from Warners Dam to irrigate 7000 or 8000 acres of land around Oceanside would cost \$2,000,000, to say nothing of the cost of riparian rights and the flooding of 3000 acres of Warners Ranch. Allowing 7% interest and 3% for operation, maintenance and depreciation, it would take \$300,000 a year income from the start to make the proposition a feasible one. Anyone who will stop to consider for a moment will realize the utter foolishness of attempting a water development of this character.

Mr. Spencer's other suggestion to us is to build a dam at Monserrate and bring the water from there to the coast. This is out of the question. It would cost \$2,000,000 to build the dam, acquire the water rights to the ocean and build the pipeline to the coast; and a yearly income of at least \$200,000 must

be had in order to pay six or seven per cent interest and cover operation and depreciation expenses. The cost of the water per thousand gallons would be so high, and, owing to the slow development of the section around Oceanside, a water system of this kind would not pay even operating expenses for years to come. We have before us such examples as the Cuyamaca Water Co. the Sweetwater Co. and the Escondido Mutual Water Co. for the last twenty years, all being bankrupt, and not paying even operating expenses, with the result that the Escondido Mutual Water Co. bonds were paid off on the basis of 50% on the dollar; the Cuyamaca Water system was purchased on the basis of 15% on the dollar; and the Sweetwater was sold under foreclosure proceedings at about 20% on the dollar.

On the other hand, the South Coast Land Co. installed their pumping plants, and completed their entire system for about \$100,000, and are in a position today to furnish water as cheap if not cheaper per thousand gallons than the cost per thousand gallons if impounded at Warners Dam or at Monserrate and brought to Oceanside, providing you allow the man who puts his money into the proposition at least six or seven per cent on his investment.

I know this is a long letter, but, as we are paying for it at advertising rates, please publish same on the front page of the Oceanside Blade of April 29th, and send me bill for same.

Yours very truly,

*175 mts
square
5.0 subsequent
equal*

September 21, 1922.

Oceanside Blade,
Oceanside, Calif.

Gentlemen:

I am trying to get for you the advertising in the matter of forming the Santa Fe Irrigation District of 11,000 acres. Please let me know how much a column you will charge per issue for legal advertising. I believe it has to be advertised five or six weeks. I personally prefer to see that you get the business, and will use my influence in your behalf, providing the price is satisfactory.

Yours very truly,

EF:AH.

*1st aff
2nd 11-cil
7-40*

280-13

October 18, 1922

Oceanside Blade,
Oceanside, Calif.

Attention Mr. Spencer

My dear Mr. Spencer:

My. Clotfelter, our attorney, said you commenced advertising the petition of the Santa Fe Irrigation District in the Oceanside Blade last Saturday. Will you kindly send me five copies of the advertisement. Enclosed find 25 cents in stamps.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

March 26, 1921.

[ref: HOOGE'S APPLICATION -
of ST. WTR CO.]
asm

Escondido Advocate,
Escondido, Calif.

Gentlemen:

Will you kindly print the enclosed notice for four consecutive weeks, one insertion a week, and then send me a copy with certified statement that it has been published, also bill.

With kind personal regards.

Very sincerely yours,
SAN DIEGUITO MUTUAL WATER CO.

EF:HLS

Pres.

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 20 Folder: 22

**General Correspondence - Oceanside
Newspapers - Register, Blade and Advocate**



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