

File @ 2600

February 28, 1918.

Mr. Julius Wangerheim,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Wangerheim:

The City Attorney, with the assistance of Congressman Kettner and others, on the theory of a grave emergency and the need of protection of the water supply for the Government troops at Camp Kearny and other places, secured the approval of the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the El Capitan bill of the City.

I asked you the day before I left for the East if the attitude of the Chamber of Commerce had changed, and had your committee endorsed the El Capitan project? Your answer was "No." I put that question to you for the reason that I intended and did present to the Public Lands Committee the report of your committee showing that the first move recommended was the building of Barrett Dam, second, San Diego Gorge, and third, the operation of pumping plants, I believe. You further told me that the matter would be thoroughly investigated, or at least that was my impression of your statement, and that no action would be taken on the El Capitan matter for some time. You can imagine my surprise to have Mr. Cosgrove read into the records your telegram endorsing the El Capitan project. It put me in the position of attempting to mislead the committee, and I was accused of it, altho absolutely innocent.

The marvelous thing is that the Chamber of Commerce, composed of the best business men of this city, should take such hasty action when no engineer with any ability or experience has ever even made a survey of the El Capitan dam site; no one knows how deep it is to bed rock - we have been down 90 feet and could not find it. Yet, when the Czar of the City Hall cracks the whip everybody jumps. Well, I had my fun with him, altho he kept me busy for awhile. His actions in Washington run true to form.

It is wholly a matter of personal enmity, this row between Cosgrove and me, and started when M. F. Heller, J. E. Boal and C. S. Alverson, the Water Committee of the Chamber of Commerce invited us to be present when they were deciding the question as to whether or not the City should buy water from us at 7¢ a thousand gallons. In the argument I said that at 7¢ the water was less than half the cost of the gravity water to the city of San Diego. Mr. Cosgrove immediately and very indignantly answered back "That statement is not true, Mr. Fletcher, and you know it." On impulse, I answered "Mr. Cosgrove, that is a lie," and I said it in a way that carried conviction with it as far as I was concerned. Mr. Cosgrove whined about it,

J. B. HAWLEY, JR., VICE-PRESIDENT  
GEORGE STUBBS, VICE-PRESIDENT

JULIUS WANGENHEIM, PRESIDENT

WILMOT GRIFFISS, TREASURER  
L. BOUVEY, SECRETARY

SOUTHERN SYNDICATE

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SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
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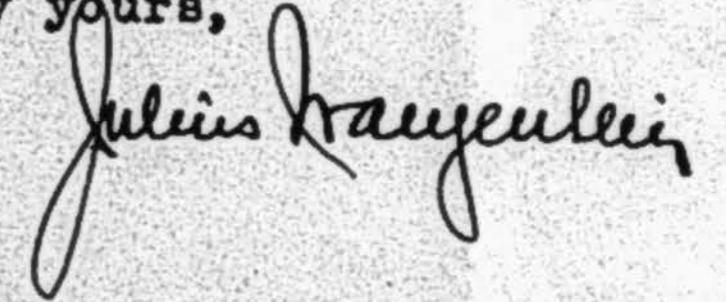
January  
27,  
1921

Mr. Ed. Fletcher,  
920 8th St.,  
San Diego, Cal.

My dear Ed:

Thanks very much for your letter of the 26th. I will give the matter a good deal of study, and, in the meantime, expect to have the pleasure of going out with you some time next week over the San Diego River System. I look forward to this with pleasure.

Very truly yours,



JW:GAM



but took it. I had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Cosgrove, later on in the forum, presided over by Dr. Bard, state that the cost of water was 15¢ per thousand gallons or more, and there is an official report on record, signed by the City Manager, that it is 18.9¢ per thousand gallons. This does not include the cost of the Bonita pipe line, the rebuilding of the Lower Otay, or the flood damage. Altogether, the cost is over 30¢ delivered to the city limits, and over 37¢ delivered at the consumers' meters. Ever since that time, however, there has been nothing too mean for Mr. Cosgrove to do, and controlling the City Hall, as he has in the past, he has been able to make me trouble in many ways. It is really laughable, and the committee in Washington could not understand how the City Attorney in one breath was claiming that there was an emergency, and yet the records which I introduced showed that we begged the city to buy water at one-third the cost of the city's water, and they would not buy.

Another thing the Committee could not understand was why San Diego was selling water at 10¢ a thousand gallons to Camp Kearny that cost them 25¢. But Cosgrove can camouflage the situation in great shape.

With Kettner and Senator Phelan against me, also the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and Secretary Lane, and with the prestige of a big municipality behind him, he certainly has had everything in his favor, but I know he believes at least that I have given him a run for his money.

Isn't it a beautiful thing to contemplate that the great City of San Diego has to stoop to underhanded methods to get this bill through the Senate? In company with Mr. W. R. Wheeler, I went to the office of Senator Myers, chairman of the Senate Public Lands Committee, and left word that I wanted to be present if the city's bill was ever introduced in the Senate, so that I could present our side of the case. I also wrote a letter to that effect. This was on the 28th of January. The next day, I believe, the bill was introduced in the senate by Senator Phelan, at the request of Mr. Cosgrove, and referred to the Public Lands Committee for a hearing on Wednesday. Senator Myers was away, and I was not notified. The gifted City Attorney was present and presented his side of the case. Senator Phelan told me that Mr. Cosgrove told him that there was no opposition to the bill, and it was passed favorably by the Committee and put on the calendar for the final vote of the Senate on the following Monday, although for two days Mr. Cosgrove and I had been arguing the bill before the Public Lands Committee of the House. Mr. Cosgrove did not have the courtesy to mention that I was in town. No judge would ever let a case go ahead without having both sides present.

The City Attorney informed a reporter in Washington, who telegraphed San Diego, and it was published in the papers that I had hired the best attorneys in Washington to fight the case. That was a lie, as I presented my own case, and it was beneath the dignity of the City Attorney to extend the usual courtesies

February  
First  
1921

Mr. Julius Hungenheim, Chairman,  
City Water Commission,  
San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Hungenheim:

Confirming my verbal promise in the matter of furnishing you with all the data possible pertaining to water development in San Diego County, will say that it is my duty and pleasure to assist your commission in every way possible, therefore I suggest that you read the following reports, and investigate the following data:

**SAN DIEGO RIVER:**

Thirty-five years' records of run-off and rainfall and consumption of the Guyanaca System. (All records of our office are open to your inspection.)

Net safe yield and value of the Guyanaca System, including our pumping plants, made by W. L. Baker on April 26, 1919 for the state engineer of California to the La Mesa Irrigation District and approved by the state engineer on Aug. 12, 1919, said valuation being \$1,451,850.00. The valuation of the Guyanaca system as of that date was on the basis of an irrigation supply, and the report specifically mentions that if a sale is made for domestic purposes, that valuation does not apply.

Report of the U. S. Reclamation Service, made by their engineer, Mr. Langwell to Director Davis on March 5, 1920, approved by Director A. P. Davis on June 2, 1920, showing net safe yield of San Diego River, including the Guyanaca system with dams built at the head of our river at the diverting dam and one at the head of our river at South Fork, also El Capitan. Mr. Savage has a copy of both reports. We have additional copies which we can lend if desired.

I refer you also to the records of the U. S. Geological Survey of stream flow measurements, and particularly advise that you ask for a complete record of the amount of water pumped each year from the wells in Mission Valley, and find out from Dr. Banks as to the quality of the water that is pumped, and the reasons why



among attorneys and notify me that the hearing was on. But, thank heaven, there are men in the Senate who believe in fair play. There were a number of senators telephoned Senator Phelan how they felt on the subject, and I had the pleasure of seeing the bill referred back to committee; also the pleasure of presenting our side of the case, and while Mr. Cosgrove may win, he certainly has not been able to bring the bill out of committee as rapidly this time as he did, under false pretenses the first time.

The testimony shows that Cosgrove, called Mr. Murray and myself "that gang" that he had been fighting for years, and he was called down and asked by the chairman not to indulge in personalities.

By the way, he handed your committee a big bunch, telling them that your committee did not represent the best interests of the community. He afterwards got hold of the reporter and got him to change the word "best" to "entire." I have the original copy of the notes of the transcript, however, with Mr. Cosgrove's own handwriting, making the change. He gives brother Sam Smith a good dig, and says that Smith's report was made recommending the San Diego Gorge in order to sell some of Smith's real estate, or his client's. He tries to show up Fred Stearns as being influenced by me to such an extent that the report was made favorable to the Cuyamaca Company and not to the City.

Enclosed find copy of the transcript on this subject that will be of interest.

Cosgrove appreciates how valuable he is, and could not help but spout it out to the committee. He even told them, as proving how valuable he was to the city that he was the highest priced attorney of any city west of the Mississippi River. Attached hereto is evidence on that subject that will certainly be of interest. It brought down the house, so much so that the chairman called him down in these words:

"We don't want that, really, Mr. Cosgrove."

Yet Brother Cosgrove kept on and spouted for some length of time as to the value of his services, as the records will show.

The fact is, Mr. Wangenheim, it is a shame that the municipality of San Diego should resort to the tactics pursued by the City Attorney. It is a disgrace to the municipality, in my opinion.

No one seems to realize that the building of Murray Dam is an added asset and protection to the water supply of the City of San Diego. Not alone has no helping hand ever been reached out to us, even to the extent of buying a small amount of water, but we are in continual litigation, fostered by a domineering man who is spending the city's money to vent a personal spite and

Camp Leary refused to take it. This supply, in my opinion, should be used only in the greatest emergency.

Would suggest that you get at the earliest possible date a complete report from Mr. Savage as to bedrock at El Capitan, and the cost of the construction of the dam there and pipe line to the city, also net safe yield, and I shall be glad to submit you figures showing you what it is going to cost you for riparian rights below, including our right to pump three million gallons a day from our El Monte pumping plant.

I will have some facts and figures for you in relation to the San Diego Gorge at an early date which may be of interest.

#### TIA JUANA RIVER:

This is an international question in the matter of storage of water and in the matter of pumping you have a perpetual typhoid condition to contend with.

The San Ysidro Irrigation District, and the Sprackels' people have made an application to the State Water Commission for all the underground waters in the U. S. A. of the Tia Juana River. That water filing is now pending. It was filed in the name of the Coronado Water Company, I believe. I have a copy of the application if you desire to see it.

When it comes to extinguishing the rights below on the Tia Juana River, it means endless litigation, or the outright purchase of the riparian owners' lands below. Before making any final move in the installation of pumping plants in the Tia Juana River, I shall be very glad to give you the benefit of the experience I have seen thru, and what may be of interest to you.

#### SAN DIEGUITO RIVER:

I refer you to the report of W. L. Huber, approved by the state engineer of California on Sept. 3, 1918 made to the Cardiff Irrigation District, showing cost of the San Dieguito Mutual Water Company's system and its net safe yield.



for his own advancement - at least there is every indication that such is the case. He testifies before the Public Lands Committee of the House, as per testimony herewith attached, that he would be glad to see us build diverting dams at our intakes and impound all the water that we can impound at those points; that he would like to see us divert ten times as much water as we are diverting now, and that the city will start no litigation. I immediately accepted his proposition then and there and told the committee that we might as well go home; that I would give a deed to my interest in the El Capitan dam site and reservoir site; all I wanted was to build our dams as originally planned and control the water which we filed on June 1, 1910, and for which we have spent over \$600,000 to protect that filing. You know what happened. Read the papers. He was double crossing us right then, for on February 13 he sent the following telegram to the City of San Diego:

"Upon surrender in large part of city's rights on San Diego River Col. Fletcher offers to withdraw opposition to our bill. Unqualified refusal on my part to entertain the proposition. Wire Henry L. Meyers, chairman senate land committee that there is no chance to compromise with Col. Fletcher and urgently requesting immediate action upon Phelan senate bill."

Then on February 17th, he wired the City of San Diego again as follows:

"Each member of the senate and house land committees has been petitioned in writing by Col. Fletcher and personally solicited by Washington associates, to hold our bill in the committee until he compromises the situation with the city council. Strangely enough he attempts to implicate me as an accessory in the movement. Such tactics unquestionably delay progress upon our bill. Wire chairman house land committee that there is nothing to compromise with Col. Fletcher, that there is no possibility of reaching an understanding with him."

Also under date of February 18, Cosgrove telegraphs:

"Nothing to compromise. Agreement with Fletcher entirely impossible."

On February 20, Wm. R. Wheeler telegraphs me as follows:

"Cosgrove informs me no action will be taken by City in opposition to your proposed claim."

Certainly his attitude in this case does not jibe. This is proof positive to me that the man is not sincere or playing the game fair, for I definitely stated before the Public Lands Committee that his own proposition was satisfactory, and it was an adjustment of the entire matter; and that I would do everything I could to see the bill passed if this adjustment could be made. The City Attorney's

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**SANTA YSABEL AND SAN LUIS REY RIVER:**

I refer you to net safe yield to report of Engineer John S. Langwell of the U. S. Reclamation Service to A. P. Davis, Director, under date of Feb. 28, 1920, said report being approved by A. P. Davis, Director on June 17, 1920, showing net safe yield of the Warners, Sutherland and Pamo dams to be 32.31 million gallons daily, covering a 20-year period, (municipal supply)

I also refer you to report of W. L. Huber to the State Engineer of California to the proposed San Luis Rey Irrigation District, under date of Nov. 4, 1918, and approved by the state engineer of California, showing the net safe yield to be 25 million gallons daily covering a 20-year period, (irrigation supply)

I refer you also to the report of J. B. Lippincott, M. K. O'Shaunessey, engineers employed by the City of San Diego to determine the net safe yield and feasibility of the Volcan project, made to the city of San Diego on May 18, 1915. I call your particular attention to the fact that in the Lippincott-O'Shaunessey report, they only figure on a 90 ft. dam, while both the state engineer and the U. S. Reclamation Service have determined that a dam 107 feet in height should be built at Warner's, thereby materially increasing the net safe yield over the Lippincott-O'Shaunessey report, and by building the Warner's dam 107 ft. high, we increase the storage there nearly 100 percent, as compared to a 90 ft. dam, the 107 ft. dam holding in excess of 200,000 acre feet.

I also refer you to the report of Philip E. Harroun, chief hydraulic engineer of the State Railroad Commission, made at the request of the City of San Diego, covering the Volcan Water System and net safe yield, also cost of completed system, dated August, 1914. This report also shows a 50 ft. dam, but the rain fall records since this report was made, show that in order to save for all practical purposes all the water that can be developed from the Warner's watershed, the dam should be built 107 feet in height instead of the originally planned height of 90 feet.

I also call your attention to the report of the Board of Engineers, consisting of J. B. Lippincott, E. Langford, W. S. Post and Francis L. Sellow, showing



only excuse was that neither he nor the City Council had the right and could not deed away any rights the City might have.

Surely some reasonable compromise can be effected. Which is better, for the city and surrounding country: To have us build say a major dam, and have it completed within eighteen months from date, or have the city build it 6, 8 or 10 years from now? Cosgrove's bill provided that the dam should not be commenced within five years, and he could have fifteen years the way he worded the bill to complete the dam. Don't forget that La Mesa and that section can get water from no other source than the Cuyamaca system, unless it means a big pumping lift, and the logical way to develop the San Diego River is to build a big dam 120 feet high at the diverting dam and a similar dam on the South Fork and a large dam at the San Diego Gorge. The El Capitan dam is so low that water will not flow by gravity through the lowest gap, 840 feet above sea level, at La Mesa, and it is a crime for the City of San Diego to block the development of water by our construction of dams at our intakes, for we have all the other facilities necessary, having doubled the capacity of our flume and built Murray Dam, so that the water can be easily handled and at a low expense, instead of attempting to develop a competing system at a big expense.

I have become so thoroughly disgusted with the City of San Diego that I feel under no obligations whatsoever to anyone to assist any further in the development of water for San Diego City or vicinity, and plans are now being made that will divert from the city its greatest and cheapest water supply. The responsibility rests not on me, but on the business men of this city, who have let irresponsible men - yes carpet baggers who don't own a dollar's worth of San Diego property - come in here and dictate the policy of the city and spend the city's money to vent a personal spite.

I called on General Littell, in charge of all the cantonments, when in Washington; offered to build a pipeline from Murray Dam and furnish Camp Kearney with a gravity supply of water, at 10¢ per thousand gallons, thereby relieving the drain on the city's water system to that extent, and out of courtesy had Mr. Lippincott notify Mr. Cosgrove and both of them went up there and discussed the matter with General Littell. As usual, Mr. Cosgrove knocked the Cuyamaca system; said it did not have enough water for its own consumers, in the face of the written opinion of the Railroad Commission that we have surplus water to sell, and went the limit to kill any arrangement that we might make with the Government. As an offset to that, I telegraphed the City of San Diego that we again offer to sell them water at 6¢ per thousand gallons, and

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the net safe yield of the Valsen system, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, as I do not have any idea you have a record of same.

From time to time I shall be glad to furnish you any further information in the matter in relation to the net safe yield of any of the streams above mentioned.

Yours very truly,

BP:KIM

cc- Mr. White  
Mr. Chandler

(RECEIVED 1917)  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

(RECEIVED 1917)  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION



let them sell it to the cantonment for 10¢. The City's reply to me was as follows:

"We beg to notify you that we believe that the City's interests will be adequately set forth by the City Attorney."

Can you beat it?

Mr. Wangenheim, I have no personal feelings in this matter against you, but my month's experience in Washington and the attitude of the city officials and the Chamber of Commerce association has convinced me that although it is nearly thirty years since any other water development has been made excepting the city; that although water is the most important factor in the development of this country, the business men of this city do not appreciate what we have done in the development of water for this section which is of direct benefit to the city of San Diego, and are hostile to anything that we undertake to do. For one I feel that I am no longer under any obligations to assist in any water development for the benefit of the city of San Diego. It is all too true that I never have had the backing of the Chamber of Commerce on any project of any kind or description. I believe that the interests I represent have been done a great injustice by the business men of this city, and if it were possible for me to leave San Diego I would certainly do so. I have a supreme confidence, however, that in the long run right will prevail, but it may come after I am dead.

Very sincerely yours,

F-8

Feb. 2, 1921.

Mr. Julius Wangenheim, Chairman,  
City Water Commission,  
San Diego.

My dear Mr. Wangenheim:

You are aware what Los Angeles has done in going to the Owens River for water, San Francisco to the Hetch-Hetchy River, and now the City of Pasadena, I see by the Public records of the State Water Commission, has gone to the Mojave River in San Bernardino County and filed on 110 cubic feet per second, or roughly 72 million gallons daily, from said river, the water to be used for municipal purposes. The water will be diverted by means of an aqueduct seventy miles long with a tunnel over three miles in length.

In the meantime, San Diego is continuing a hard to mouth policy for domestic purposes alone.

Los Angeles put most of its water in the San Fernando Valley, a dry farming acreage, adjoining the city of Los Angeles and the water from the Owens River was used for irrigation purposes, but Los Angeles took the San Fernando Valley in as part of the city of Los Angeles and now it is one of the most intensely cultivated valleys in the state of California, and a large share of water is now being used for domestic purposes, owing to the wonderful increase in population.

Until San Diego realizes her moral obligation to develop a large comprehensive water development and put water on the suburban lands, there can be no expectation of ever developing as the cities to the North are doing.

Yours very truly,

RF:HS



February  
25th  
1921

City Water Commission,  
San Diego, California.

Attention Mr. Wangerheim

Gentlemen:

Enclosed find copy of letter of the State Engineer of California, relative to the Cuyamaca System, that may be of interest.

Mr. McClure placed a valuation on our Cuyamaca System as of date of August 12, 1919, at \$1,451,850.00, however this valuation was based on water for irrigating purposes.

We have spent something like \$75,000 on our Cuyamaca System in betterments, including the 39" concrete siphon which takes the place of the Sweetwater trestle, the concrete lining on our El Cajon pipe line, etc. since this valuation was made.

Please read carefully Mr. McClure's letter of February 7th.

Yours very truly,

RP:KIM

cc- Mr. White  
Mr. Chandler

P. S. The state engineer only gave us a valuation of, roughly, \$135,000 for the construction of Murray dam. Murray dam would not today be constructed for any sum less than \$150,000.

February 25, 1921.

City Water Commission,  
San Diego, California.

Attention Mr. Julius Wangerheim

Gentlemen:

Confirming our verbal discussion yesterday, relative to the sale of water, or the purchase of the Cuyamaca System by the City, will say the Cuyamaca Water Company will sell all of its holdings to the City, as listed in the report of W. L. Huber, dated April 29, 1919, to the La Mesa Irrigation District, and approved by W. F. McClure, state engineer, under date of August 12, 1919, for the sum of \$1,451,850.00, which is the valuation put on the property by the State Engineer of California, as a basis of sale to the La Mesa Irrigation District.

It will also include the 160 acres of land known as the Koehner property on which is located the so-called El Capitan damsite; also the Marks property of 160 acres, on which is located the so-called Fletcher damsite, where borings have lately been made and bedrock demonstrated at from 26 to 40 feet.

The above properties can be acquired without the necessity of a bond issue. We will accept payment of \$25,000 down, and \$25,000 every three months until the property is paid for, with interest at the rate of six percent, net, on any deferred payments, interest payable semi-annually. All receipts for the sale of water to our present consumers, or to the City of San Diego in the future, over and above our ordinary operating expenses will be applied to the purchase price, and can be used, if desired, to pay the quarterly installments. Water to the value of approximately \$75,000 a year, in my opinion, can be delivered by the Cuyamaca Company to the city without endangering the present supply to our present consumers, thereby assisting to that extent in paying for the property.

We would want to keep possession of the property until such time as at least half of the property is paid for, or until such time as the bonds of the city are voted, and we will at any time take San Diego five percent bonds in payment, at par.



FROM: WANGENSTEIN &  
CHANDLER &  
WHITE

CC I.L. 4/15/21

April 13, 1921

To the Honorable Mayor and Common Council,  
of the City of San Diego.

Gentlemen:

The water question is our most important problem and has for a long time been crying for solution. The present situation, while in no wise alarming, is surely sufficiently serious to arouse us to a realization of our needs, and force a long delayed issue into action.

Year by year these matters received no end of discussion, but little resulted therefrom. Issues were made and sides were taken without either adequate or definite knowledge of the facts, and were based almost entirely on personal prejudice or prediction. Meanwhile, under cover of the quarrel, private interests gradually secured possession of all the water rights in the district, fortifying themselves at every strategic point, until San Diego practically became dispossessed of her very birth-right, as far as water is concerned. The result, therefore, of all this controversy was not only to do no good, but to do a great deal of harm.

The situation must now be met in a different spirit. The problem must no longer be flirted with, but must be boldly seized with a strong, firm hand; a policy should be outlined, and once outlined, should be put into execution as quickly as needs demand and finances permit.

This policy should be comprehensive, and at once far seeing and far reaching. It should aim primarily to cover our future needs while giving due weight to the immediate necessities of the present. To this end, our first duty should be to assemble detailed data of everything appertaining to all our possible water sources; and your Commission has already organized a department for this purpose.

This will embrace a thorough study of our various water sheds; the San Diego and Tia Juana Rivers; the Santa Ysabel, with its possible dam sites at Sutherland and Pamo; the San Luis Rey (the largest source of water in the county) with the immense capacity of a Warners Dam. Nor must we forget the possibilities of the streams below the Mexican line, which may contain great promise for the future. Nothing above or under ground should be overlooked, and we should so proceed that, step by step, we will be nearer to a much hoped for solution.

For immediate action, however, and speaking definitely for the present, we propose: first, The Acquisition of the Cuyamaca System, if it can be secured at a reasonable price; and, second, The Construction of a Dam in the Mission Gorge.

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A clause can be inserted, giving the city authority to go ahead any time to make any improvements on the Cuyamaca System it may desire, and at the expense of the city, or by mutual agreement from revenue derived from the surplus funds of the Cuyamaca Company. The new increase in irrigation rates of from 75 to 140 percent, which went into effect October 15th, together with the increase in domestic rates, will furnish a large revenue over and above operating expenses. Just how much cannot be determined until a year has elapsed.

In answer to your inquiry as to how much water we can furnish for the next six months, will say we can, commencing April 1st, furnish you from three to five million gallons a day, delivered at the city limits, the price to be 10 cents per thousand gallons so long as we do not operate our pumping plant at El Monte. During the time the El Monte plant is being operated, the price would be ten cents per hundred cubic feet.

Murray dam is now filled within 10 feet of the top, and with one or two more rains, which we are bound to get, we expect to completely fill Murray dam this spring.

Will be glad to confer with you at any time in relation to either a sale of water, or a sale of the system.

The offer of purchase of the Cuyamaca System, either by outright contract, or a lease similar to that under which the pipe line La Jolla to Del Mar was acquired, holds good until April 1st, 1921, subject to terms and conditions being satisfactory to all parties in interest.

Yours very sincerely,

CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY

MANAGER

RF:KLM



Cuyamaca System

We advocate the purchase of this system for a variety of reasons, most of which are self-evident.

1. Because there is water in the system which we want and need, and which is now, to a certain measure at least, going to waste. Considering the seriousness of our water problem this is an economic extravagance, no matter whose the fault, and should be stopped.
2. The purchase of the system will give us a clear right to solve the problem of the San Diego River and its water supply. Considering that it is our most contiguous source, it should be the city's place to acquire and develop it.
3. The purchase of the system will largely put an end to all the controversy that has raged around, personal factors for a long time, and that, more than any one item, has unfortunately retarded the proper development of our water system.
4. It will allow, in due course, for the construction of the El Capitan dam, and set to rest all the legal difficulties and other antagonisms of the controversy. The El Capitan, in our opinion, is too expensive to build now, but future development may require it; and the acquisition of the Cuyamaca System would remove all the difficulties that now exist.
5. By joining the Cuyamaca System to our own, each would be re-inforced and the water capacity of each much increased. The Cuyamaca has more runoff than storage capacity, while our own system has much more storage than runoff. By equalizing the two systems, tremendous gain of capacity will be secured.
6. When, some time in the future, we shall have secured any of the Volcan reservoirs by purchase, condemnation or agreement, the Cuyamaca System will furnish an inexpensive conduit for these waters to the city.
7. The Cuyamaca Company owns the river lands at El Monte and a pumping plant thereon, which can be of inestimable service as an auxiliary supply, particularly in case of an emergency.

We are, however, not unmindful of a number of objections that might be raised, and we have aimed to fully weigh them.

First, the supply of water in the system is, in ordinary years, not very heavy and its net safe yield is small.

We realize this, but, nevertheless, what water there is, we want. More can be developed by building storage dams in the neighborhood of the present diverting dam, and also in the south fork. Furthermore, there is a surplus of water, as is demonstrated by the fact that we are even now purchasing water from the system, and we have the evidence of a nearly full Murray dam to prove that, even under adverse conditions, there is a surplus to be had; and any surplus, we need and want.

Second, the system is in poor condition.

This we also realize. The flume has stood for thirty years and is in need of considerable repair and renovation. It has been continually improved so that it functions reasonably well, and with general repairs and local replacements it will stand for quite a number of years, at the end of which time it would be hoped the city should be able to concrete the entire structure. The Cuyamaca dam is sound for the comparatively small work it is called on to do, and the Murray Dam is an ideal pattern of its kind, splendidly fulfilling its purpose.

Third, the Cuyamaca System is tied up by obligations; the waters are needed and are being taken by agricultural lands and suburban cities.

The system, if purchased, must be purchased with these obligations, and not only could we not cancel them if we would, but we would not cancel them if we could. The development of suburban property is vital to San Diego and should be encouraged; and as to the supply of water to adjacent towns, we should protect this with the same solicitude that we do our own. The La Mesa District is organized, and we believe will co-operate with us, as we with them, in the acquisition and proper handling of the system. It is worth considering that the present obligations on the system entail quite a revenue for the system. This will go far to minimize the expense of operation and of acquisition. There ought to be a revenue of over \$100,000 a year from outside water supply.

Another objection that might be raised is that our bonding capacity does not permit the purchase of the system at the present time. We have overcome this objection by a tentative agreement with the Cuyamaca Company in which they have expressed themselves willing, independent of any settlement as to price, to accept installment payments for the purchase of the system. We believe, therefore, that a satisfactory arrangement can be entered into which will not infringe on our present small bonding margin.

Our recommendations for the purchase of the system, however, as stated, will depend upon its purchase at a reasonable price, and we believe that conditions are favorable for securing the system to mutual advantage. Private ownership is no longer tenable for domestic water supply, as the public will not permit private interests to control their essential necessity, and they are apt to be unjust to private owners. At any rate, it has been well demonstrated that private control of water is unprofitable. On the other hand, it is an absolute necessity for the public, and the public should take it over, and pay for it a fair value. Fairness should be the essence of the transaction. Neither should the city attempt to take advantage of private ownership because it has a non-paying piece of property, nor, on the other hand, should private ownership take advantage of the city because of public needs.



We believe that some fair valuation can be arrived at. The Railroad Commission's report of 1915 fixes the price of the water system at \$677,000 or \$745,000, according to circumstances cited. The State Engineer in 1919, in connection with the La Mesa Irrigation District, fixes the price at \$1,451,000. Somewhere between these figures we believe the true value to lie, and we feel confident that the system can be secured on some equitable and mutually satisfactory basis.

Once acquired it will be necessary to expend considerable money on the improvement of the system, and for this we will have to draw on our bonding margin. A dam will have to be built on the upper San Diego River and possibly a small one at the South Fork, and the entire flume will have to be gone over and gradually improved. Our two systems will have to be connected by a pipe line connecting the flume with Otay dam. This will permit the surplus winter waters of the San Diego River being stored in our own reservoirs and there conserved. The Cuyamaca System may be counted on, with few exceptions, for a good supply of winter runoff. This should be utilized to its fullest extent; either by being conserved in our own system, or utilized from the flume direct, or, more particularly, conserved by a dam and reservoir in the Mission Gorge.

Mission Gorge Dam.

The waters from the head of the San Diego river, in so far as they are in greater volume than can be carried by the Cuyamaca flume, run into the bed stream of the river and are wasted, except to the extent that they are afterwards pumped out of the sands of the various river beds. In times of heavy runoffs there is no question but that a great deal of water is thus wasted, and, considering that the strength of our water system must be in its impounding capacity, such runoff should, whenever possible, be so conserved; and, together with the waters of the San Vicente and other creeks, should be impounded at the most desirable site. Such location seems to be, unquestionably, the Mission Gorge, which appears almost as if designed by nature for a dam and reservoir site.

As to the exact spot, there are a number of available points. The first, in the neighborhood of the old Padres' dam at the upper end of the Gorge; the second, at the U.S. Gauging Station, about the middle, and the third, the very narrow ledge at the western end. It will require exhaustive engineering investigation and study to decide which of these is the most desirable.

There are two theories as to the construction of a dam in the gorge. One theory favors a low structure to impound the freshet waters of each winter's rains, making same available for the city, either by gravity to the lower portions or by pumping to the upper, and thereby conserving the supply in our own present impounding system. This will require only a low dam with a small reservoir area, and consequent economy in the construction of the dam and the acquisition of the reservoir site.

The second theory favors a large impounding dam at the most available point, conserving a maximum amount of water, running well up into the billions. With the occasional heavy floods in the San Diego river this dam would, once in many years, be filled, and would act as

a heavy reserve to San Diego's water supply. It would, however, involve a large expense in the construction of the dam, and, more particularly, in the acquisition of the reservoir lands, for in this event a large amount of the El Cajon Valley would be flooded and have to be bought at high figures. The area so flooded would be tremendous in extent but shallow in depth, and, considering the large evaporation in the summer time, would add but little to the useful water supply.

It is probable that the solution will ultimately lie between the two. A high dam toward the westerly portion of the gorge will impound a number of billions of gallons, most of which will be held in the gorge and its contiguous canyons; it will be of considerable depth, with, consequently, small relative evaporation, and will not, therefore, entail the purchase of expensive valley lands.

All the above suggestions are tentative only and must conform to engineering requirements and legal decisions. The purchase of the Cuyamaca System also is to be based upon arriving at some satisfactory figure by agreement. In the event that negotiations in this matter should fail we would then suggest the immediate construction of as large a dam as possible in the gorge, impounding the maximum amount of water, and at the same time commence proceedings to recover and establish our rights to as much of the head waters of the San Diego river as is possible.

We are submitting to you this, our preliminary report, before deciding on the final engineering figures, for these will be expensive and long delayed. Our idea is to discuss these suggestions thoroughly with you, at the same time taking the public into our confidence. We will be pleased to confer freely with any organization interested in the subject, and feel convinced that our plans will win their approval.

After we have given an opportunity for free and thorough discussion, and should our recommendations receive general acceptance, we hope for your co-operation and collaboration in outlining a detailed program, with a view to the immediate prosecution of the work,

This will be a delicate and difficult task, involving many financial, engineering, legal, and administrative details which can only be satisfactorily solved in an atmosphere of perfect harmony and mutual confidence.

Respectfully submitted,

WATER COMMISSION OF SAN DIEGO

BY:

Julius Wangenheim  
Chas. T. Chandler  
F. M. White.

JW:GAM



March Twelfth,  
1 9 2 9

Mr. Julius Wangerheim, Pres.,  
Southern Syndicate,  
Southern Title Bldg.,  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mr. Wangerheim:

Enclosed find copy of letter that I have received from  
Mr. Hornbeck that is explanatory.

The collection of guns is about to be sold to Los Angeles.  
Mr. Hornbeck is particularly anxious to get these guns  
for his collection and give them to the City of San Diego.

I have no interest in the matter except to see the collection  
preserved for San Diego.

It will cost Mr. Hornbeck \$500 or \$600 to put the  
collection in shape and in addition he will give some  
of his own money. I am willing to subscribe \$100. We  
need about \$1,000.

If you are interested will you please send a check,  
either payable to Mr. Louis Smith, or to myself, and we  
will try and save this collection for San Diego.

Yours truly,

EP:AK

April Twenty-ninth,  
1 9 2 9

Mr. Julius Wangerheim,  
So. Title Bldg.,  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mr. Wangerheim:

Enclosed find account of my trip across the continent  
also certified copy of Western Union time that I  
promised you yesterday.

Yours sincerely,

EP:AK



JULIUS WANGENHEIM  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

July 15, 1929

Col. Ed. Fletcher,  
1024 - 9th St.,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Ed:

Mr. Marston of course thinks of the Presidio Hills celebration as a Civic Function honoring the early founders. We however, look at it as a tribute to Mr. Marston and to his invariable generosity.

Considerable expense is necessarily being incurred, and this in our opinion should be met by those who are glad to show their appreciation of what Mr. Marston has done and is doing for the community.

When he has given so much, we should be glad to give our little.

\$5,000 will be needed and we are naturally only asking a few friends, who we feel will not only be able, but willing to give not less than \$100.

You naturally are included in this list and I hope you will give as generously as you feel inclined.

Very truly yours,

*Julius Wangenheim*  
Chairman Finance Committee

JW:M

*5 - 1100*

July sixteenth,  
1929

Mr. Julius Wangenheim,  
So. Title Bldg.,  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mr. Wangenheim:

Enclosed find check for \$100 to help out in the expense of Presidio Hills celebration as per your letter of July thirteenth.

Yours truly,

AL



August Fifth,  
1929

Mr. Julius Wagnheim,  
Southern Title Bldg.,  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mr. Wagnheim:

I regret that I could not attend the meeting called last Monday, the 28th of June, but I was called north unexpectedly Sunday afternoon and did not return until Tuesday. Please excuse my absence.

At the next meeting of the Board I will be glad to tell you what I know regarding the Tax Factors situation.

Yours very truly,

RF:AK



**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 32 Folder: 16**

**General Correspondence - Wangenheim, Julius**



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