

May 2, 1922.

Mayor E. W. Porter,
La Mesa, California.

My dear Mayor Porter:

Major Kluegel, who is head of the State Water Commission, is coming to San Diego on or about the 10th of May for an investigation as to the right of the Cuyamaca Water Company to build a dam at the head of our flume.

The City of San Diego is the only one who has opposed the construction of this dam. Not a riparian owner protested against it on our claim of due diligence. It is important to all concerned that City Trustees of La Mesa immediately send a telegram to Major H. A. Kluegel, Division of Water Rights, Department of Public Works, Sacramento, telling him that you understand he is coming soon to San Diego County and you ask for a hearing to discuss the matter informally with Major Kluegel while he is here, and asking when he will be here.

The above is a suggestion for your consideration, for I hope that your Board of Trustees will present this matter clearly to Major Kluegel, urging the construction of the dam. Major Kluegel is going to have a conference with the City of San Diego, at which time they are going to protest the building of the dam. It seems to me that if you could have Major Kluegel come to La Mesa, for a special hearing it will be much more impressive.

Yours very sincerely,

EF:KLM

INTERVIEW OF E. W. PORTER, FOR MANY YEARS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LA MESA

Assessor Moody never did a greater injustice to one of our best citizens, Colonel Ed Fletcher, than when he made the following statement as published in the Union Tuesday morning.

"The same interests that have throttled and thwarted the city for years in its fight for the waters of the San Diego River are fighting El Capitan today", said Moody in a speech at the Memorial Junior High School. "I will name them for you, too, Cuyamaca Water Company, Ed Fletcher and the San Diego County Water Company".

Let us compare the activities of Colonel Fletcher and Mr. Moody for the last 20 years. What has Moody done for this city? He has fed at the public crib for 20 years. He is an appointee of the city council and their mouthpiece. He has raised San Diego's assessed valuation to over \$127,000,000, while the state and county valuation of the same property is \$88,000,000 a difference of nearly \$40,000,000 thanks to our present city council. It is common knowledge that over 200 pieces of business property have been sold in recent years for less than the assessed valuation made by Mr. Moody.

Colonel Fletcher's activities are almost too numerous to mention. He has brought in from ~~the~~ outside sources many millions of dollars in the building of the Lake Hodges Santa Fe project, the Henshaw project, and in the development of the Cuyamaca System, which combined, are putting over 60,000 acres of our lands under irrigation and will add fifty to sixty millions to San Diego's wealth in the next

ten years. There would be no East San Diego, La Mesa, Normal Heights and El Cajon - 30,000 people - without the Cuyamaca System which is furnishing them with water today.

We are indebted to Colonel Fletcher's enterprises also for Del Mar, Solana Beach, Grossmont, Pine Hills, and his latest development at Cuyamaca Lake.

I am stating the above for the benefit of the 50,000 new people who have come into San Diego during the last three or four years and do not personally know Colonel Fletcher's record of achievement.

The truth is the council has had ten years in which to buy the Cuyamaca System, has turned it down three or four times and now that the District, by a three and one-half to one vote has purchased the system, the political council sees what an error it has made and is trying to camouflage the situation. The facts are the irrigation district owns the El Capitan damsite and lands, and there must first be brought about a compromise between the District and the City before any bonds can be voted for the development of any water on the San Diego River.

Sincerely yours,

2507

City of La Mesa
La Mesa, Calif.

August 10, 1922

Mr. Ed Fletcher,
San Diego.

Dear Sir:

Please find with this sketch of about seven acres of the Murray Estate at the south west corner of the estate at Chollas Road and the city limits. The property wanted by the City is largely the drainage bed for the higher levels on both sides of the road and of the whole western part of La Mesa.

We could use for a time a smaller amount of the land but if it can be secured now it would be to advantage to both the City and the present owners.

I enclose also the Assessors valuation as you suggested. If it is not feasible to secure deed to this property at present may it not be possible to secure a lease for a term of years with an option for its purchase when some of the litigation is concluded.

Yours truly,

E. W. PORTER

President.

Original to Mr. Brown.

CITY OF LA MESA
LaMesa, Calif

August 4, 1922.

President of the Board of Trustees,

City of La Mesa

Sir:-

In obedience to your verbal order I have inspected the seven acres of land in La Mesa Acres, which it is proposed buying for the purpose of sewage disposal, and have endeavored to place a fair value on the same.

In my opinion for farming purposes at the present time it is practically worthless.

As building lots, the fact that a creek bed runs through it which must be kept open, reduces its value.

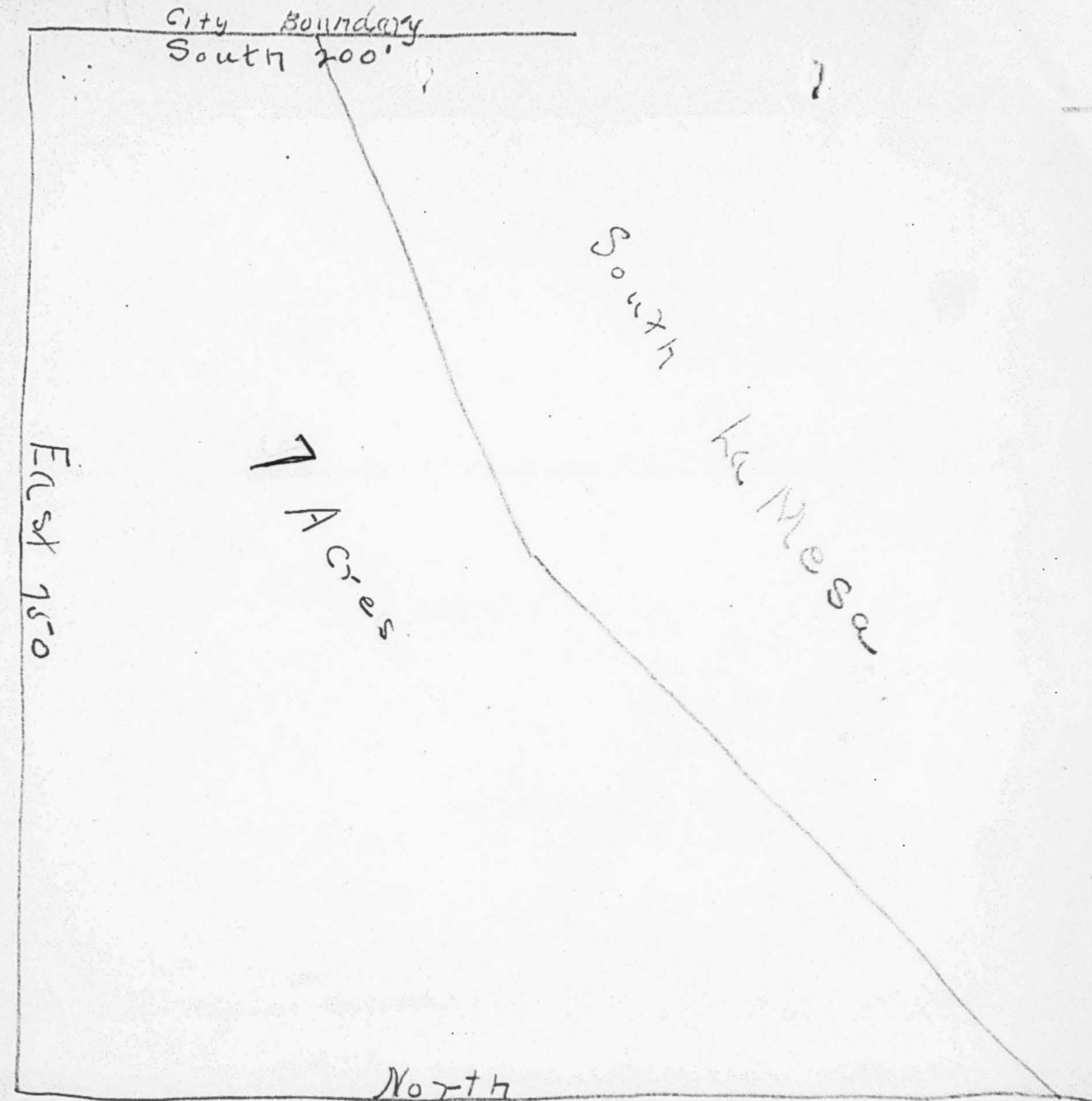
Taking the above into consideration I think fifty (50) dollars per acre would be a big price.

Yours respectfully,

C. EL STRITE

City Clerk and Assessor

original to W.S.K.Brown



File 320-4

Sept. 15, 1922.

Mayor E. W. Porter,
La Mesa, California.

My dear Mr. Mayor:

Answering your inquiry in relation to acquiring a certain piece of land for septic tank purposes from the Murray estate, will say I wrote a letter on August 12th, urging the acceptance of your proposition, but as yet have had no reply. The attorney in charge of the property has had an accident, which has delayed matters, then again the question of inheritance taxes, both state and government, is still open, which is holding up all plans.

I have written again today to Mr. Brown, the attorney, asking him to expedite matters at the earliest possible moment.

Yours sincerely,

EF:KLM

Sept. 19, 1922.

File 220-4

Mayor E. W. Porter,
La Mesa, California.

My dear Mayor:

Enclosed find letter dated September 15th from W. S. K. Brown, attorney for the Murray Estate, all of which is explanatory.

My suggestion is that you pass a resolution of intention to buy when the title can be perfected, and that until such time as the title can be perfected you pay \$50.00 a year on the lease, and that a lease be made at the present time.

EF:KLM

Yours truly,

130-5

Oct. 18, 1923.

Mayor E. W. Porter,
City of La Mesa,
California.

My dear Mayor Porter:

The La Mesa Scout is very much interested in the question as to who would establish the rates in case the City of San Diego acquired the Cuyamaca System. Will you please write, as Mayor of the City of La Mesa, to the Railroad Commission immediately and put the following question to them?

With the City of San Diego owning the Cuyamaca System, will the State Railroad Commission of California thereafter establish rates, or will the City of San Diego establish the rates both for domestic and irrigating water for the City of La Mesa, as well as the irrigation rates inside and outside the City of La Mesa.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Smith.

I would appreciate your early action in this matter, furnishing the reply to Mr. Smith for his benefit, and also to the City of La Mesa.

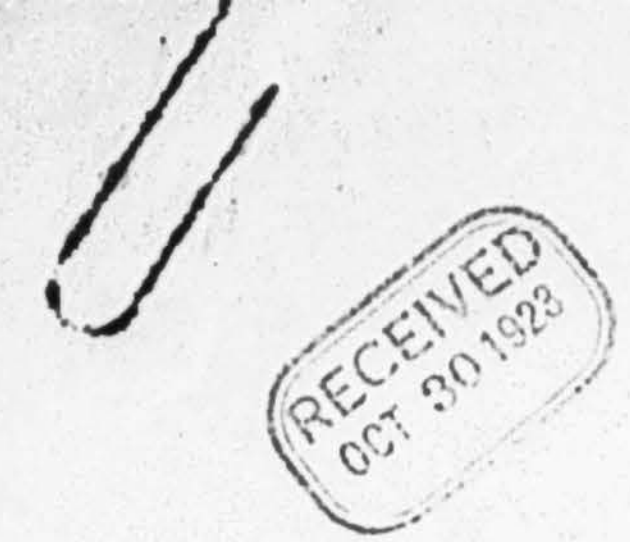
Thanking you in advance for your courtesy in this matter, I am

Yours very truly,

*file
smith*

EF:KLM

cc C.O. Smith



RAILROAD COMMISSION
of the
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

October 26, 1923.
File 004-3-6

City of La Mesa,
La Mesa, California.

Attention Mr. E. W. Porter, President.

Gentlemen:

The Commission is in receipt of your letter of October 23d, asking the following question:

"With the City of San Diego owning the Cuyamaca Water System, will the State Railroad Commission of California thereafter establish rates, or will the City of San Diego establish the rates both for domestic and irrigation water for the city of La Mesa, as well as the irrigation rates inside and outside the city of La Mesa?"

A complete answer to this inquiry will be found in the decision of the California Supreme Court in the case of City of Pasadena v. Railroad Commission, 183 Cal. 526 (1920). In that case the Supreme Court held that the Public Utilities Act had no application to any public service carried on by municipal corporations, and that therefore the Railroad Commission possesses no jurisdiction to fix rates to be charged for such municipally owned public service.

It is therefore clear that if the City of San Diego purchases the Cuyamaca water system, this Commission will no longer possess jurisdiction to regulate rates either inside or outside the City of San Diego. This being true, we assume that the City of San Diego, pursuant to such powers as it may have under its charter, will fix the rates in question.

If this Commission can be of any further assistance to you, please inform us.

Very truly yours,

(signed) Carl I. Wheat
Assistant Attorney.

CIW:ELH

*White
Bond
Grable
Sullivan
Gravel
Judson.*

La Mesa, California,
November 2, 1923.

Colonel Ed Fletcher,
San Diego, California.

Dear Sir:

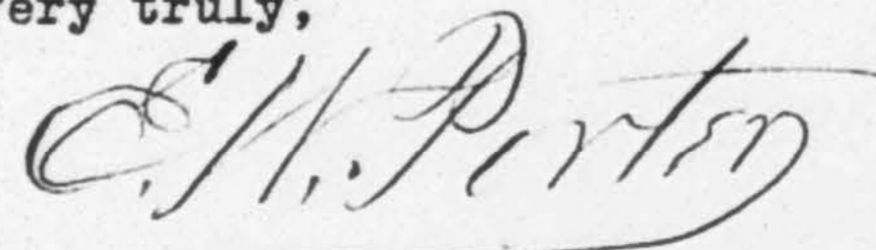
The La Mesa Scout prints a definite statement from the State Railroad Commission that the City of San Diego, if it buys the Cuyamaca System, will have complete jurisdiction and establish all rates for domestic and irrigation water, both inside and outside all municipalities.

As the City of San Diego is now charging 20 cents a thousand gallons for irrigating water within the city limits, irrigators in this section are particularly interested as to whether or not San Diego buys the Cuyamaca Water System. For the benefit of this community may I ask the following questions:

1. Are there any negotiations for the sale of the Cuyamaca System to the city?
2. What is the price at which you would sell the Cuyamaca System and what would be included in the transfer?
3. Being a ~~large~~ owner and directly interested in the success of the irrigation district, what is the safe yield with the Cuyamaca System fully developed, and how many acres of land should be within the boundaries of the irrigation district.

Thanking you for an early reply, I am

Yours very truly,



November 2, 1923.

Mayor E. W. Porter,
La Mesa, California.

My dear Mayor Porter:

Do you care to write me a letter similar to the enclosed? If so, kindly send it and I will give you an answer.

I would like to see both your letter to me and my letter in reply published in the La Mesa paper. This is probably the last time that your section will have the opportunity of acquiring the Cuyamaca System. I want to be in the clear that they have been given every opportunity so there can be no hard feelings if we dispose of the system to others.

Yours sincerely,

EF:KLM

November 13, 1923.

Mayor E. W. Porter,
City of La Mesa,
California.

My dear Mr. Porter:

Answering yours of November 2d, I will answer your three questions as follows:

1. There are no negotiations direct with the City of San Diego at the present time. There are negotiations pending with the Special Water Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.
2. As to price will say, I would recommend to my associate, Mr. Charles F. Stern, that the Cuyamaca Water System, if disposed of at an early date, including El Capitan damsite and water filings, Fletcher damsite and water rights, also the El Monte pumping plant and all water rights, as well as the present existing system, be sold for \$1,500,000 and accept six percent bonds of the La Mesa Irrigation District at par, when approved by the State Engineer of California and the State Bonding Commission; or we will take bonds at par at any other value which the State Engineer of California may award.

On August 12, 1919, the state Engineer of California, W. F. McClure, placed a sales value of \$1,451,850 on our system to the La Mesa District. Since then we have added between \$200,000 and \$300,000 in capital development.

3. Answering question No. 3 will say that the system as at present constructed has a net safe yield of approximately seven and eight million gallons daily, including the El Monte pumping plant, and approximately eleven million gallons daily with Fletcher and South Fork dams built. The estimated cost of Fletcher and South Fork dams is approximately \$600,000.

Eliminating the record of seven years of drought, the normal net safe yield of the Cuyamaca System developed, not including El Capitan dam, is sixteen to seventeen million gallons daily. The present Cuyamaca System developed has sufficient water for 20,000 acres within the boundaries of the La Mesa Irrigation District, and I recommend that amount. There are about 15,000 acres in the

E. C. UPP, Clerk
C. W. BALL, Treasurer

CITY OF LA MESA

LA MESA, CALIFORNIA

La Mesa Nov, 3.23.

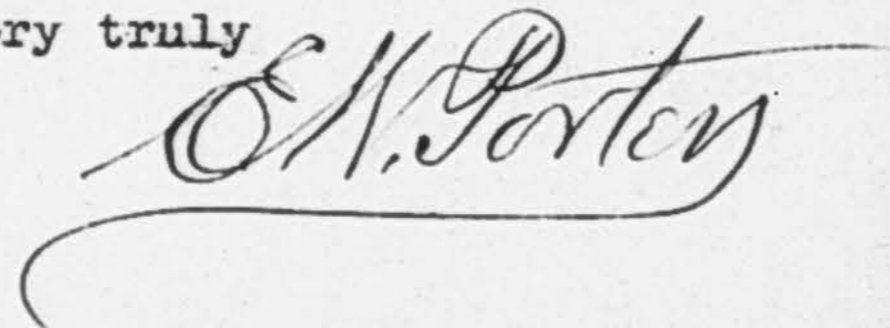
Col. Ed Fletcher.

My dear Sir:

Please find herewith the request for further information with regard to the Cuyamaca Water system which begins to seem quite interesting to many of our citizens:

Hope a day is not very far off when some of the water matters can be definitely settled to the advantage of the irrigating communities so they can safely proceed in developing the back and unused lands of portions of San Diego County which will be greatly needed for the Greater San Diego in which we are all so deeply interested.

Yours very truly



TRUSTEES

E. W. PORTER, President
D. M. JONES
F. E. NYSTROM
J. D. O'BRIEN
W. A. LAIDLAW

November 14, 1923.

present district and we will be glad to put in 2,000 or 3,000 more, if desired.

Ten or fifteen years hence the District should build El Capitan dam and develop an additional large supply of water when conditions warrant it. As El Capitan dam is only within 300 ft. of our flume line, and as the pumping lift is nominal, the construction of El Capitan dam is only a question of time.

The Cuyamaca Water Company would reserve Mission Gorge No. 3 in case a sale was made to the district.

If the City of San Diego should purchase the Cuyamaca System, the city council would establish rates both for irrigation and domestic supply to all the consumers of the Cuyamaca Water Company. This was recently the decision of the Supreme Court of the State of California in the case of Pasadena vs. the State Railroad Commission, which is identical with the present situation.

If La Mesa and the adjoining territory are desirous of coming into the City of San Diego, it is possibly not for the best interest of the district to buy the Cuyamaca System, altho it certainly puts you in a more independent position. If you are opposed to joining the City of San Diego it is vital that the district acquire the Cuyamaca System at once, and settle the water question for all time for your present and future growth.

I will be pleased to cooperate in every way that I can.

Thanking you for the interest you are taking in this matter, I am

Yours very truly,

ED FLETCHER

EF:KLM

Mayor E. W. Porter,
City of La Mesa, Calif.

My dear Mr. Porter:

Enclosed find original also copy of my letter to you; also copy of your letter to me.

I would suggest that you furnish this information to the La Mesa Scout for general information.

I certainly thank you for your interest in this matter. It is probably the last time the La Mesa section will ever have an opportunity to even consider the purchase of the Cuyamaca System. This statement is for your information alone.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 21 Folder: 23

General Correspondence - Porter, E.W.



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