

GOBERNADOR DEL DISTRITO
NORTE DE LA BAJA CALIFORNIA
ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS
CORRESPONDENCIA PARTICULAR

Mexicali, B. C.,
27 de marzo
de 1928.

Señor Ed. Fletcher.
920 Eight St.
San Diego, Calif.

Muy estimado amigo:

Tuve el gusto de recibir su carta del 20 del presente, y con élla el artículo que apareció en el San Diego Union de esa ciudad.

Me enteré con gusto de que tiene usted proyectado hacer un viaje al sur de esta Fenínsula, acompañado de los señores Coronel Copley y Procurador Webb de California, de cuyo viaje espero se servirá usted darme aviso con toda anticipación para tener el gusto de acompañarlos, cuando menos hasta El Onix, ya que no me será posible ir más lejos con ustedes por no poder separarme muchos días de esta ciudad.

Con el afecto de siempre me repito su amigo y atento seguro servidor.

A. L. Rodriguez

History

October Twelfth
1 9 3 2

Hon. A. L. Rodriguez
President of the United States of Mexico
Mexico City

My dear Friend:

I wonder if you have checked over the responsibility and power of the International Boundary Commission of United States and Mexico. This Commission was created to carry out the provisions of conventions or treaties in 1848, 1853, 1882, 1884, 1889 and 1905 between the United States and Mexico. This commission has exclusive jurisdiction over all differences or questions that may arise on boundary between United States and Mexico from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean, 2013 miles, consisting of 1,321 miles along the Rio Grande and 19 miles along the Colorado River. Also 673 miles overland boundary between El Paso, Texas and the Pacific Ocean.

The commission is empowered to suspend the construction of works of any character along the Rio Grande and Colorado River that contravene with existing treaties.

By checking up you will see that existing treaties include riparian rights to waters on international streams and which are the Colorado River, the Tijuana River and the Rio Grande.

My suggestion is that you check this matter up immediately and the Government of Mexico is in a position to object to the construction on or use of the Colorado River which will diminish your supply of water.

I am enclosing map showing the proposed Parker route of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District, so-called. They are getting 40 million dollars from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and commence the construction of the conduit and diversion of water from Parker, Arizona to Los Angeles. If you sit by undisturbed doing nothing to protest time may be running against you.

It would seem to me that a protest from the Mexican Government to the United States Government is all that is necessary to put the United States Government on notice and thru them the Metropolitan Water District. It would also stop the Reconstruction Finance Corporation from loaning the 40 million dollars which they are now planning to loan the Metropolitan Water District and have already agreed to do so.

I had a half hour's talk with Secretary of the Interior, Honorable Ray Wilbur, a personal friend, last week. I am making a protest at his suggestion to the United States Reclamation Service sending a copy to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, also another copy to Secretary Wilbur. I shall send one copy to Secretary of State, Mr. Stimson, but in the meantime you ought to get busy and make a formal protest immediately.

The Mexican and United States boundary commission have the identical authority that exists in connection with the Canadian and United States boundary commission. Cases have arisen on the Colorado River with the diversion of the Parker water directly in point on the Canadian border.

To illustrate: The Chicago Drainage Canal diverting water from the lakes into the Mississippi River were blocked in so doing until such time as the international Canadian and United States commission passed on the question and their decision was final limiting the amount of water that could be taken from Lake Michigan and it was very much less than the Chicago Drainage Canal asked for but the decision of that international commission stood and is in force today.

At no time did this matter get into the hands or become a United States Government controversy.

Then again, in a similar case on the Canadian line where a dam was erected in Canada and overflowed lands in the United States the decision was against the corporation owning the dam in Canada and a decision was rendered by the international commission giving them the following alternatives. First, to destroy their dam or else make private settlement with the owners of the over flowed lands in the United States. A private settlement was made in this case but the boundary commission decision was final without getting into court.

The Colorado River water is undoubtedly under the control of the international Mexican and United States commission and like Canada many hundreds of square miles of water shed originate in Mexico flow into the United States and then back into Mexico again making conditions identical.

I am sending you under separate cover a map of the Parker route into Los Angeles. This shows that they propose to divert 1500 second feet of water out of the Colorado River to the Metropolitan Water District in and around Los Angeles. This is certainly a direct violation of the international treaties.

I cannot believe that you are going to idly stand by and allow this to be done. Some equitable arrangement should be made and satisfactory to the boundary commission.

I am fighting for San Diego County in a desire to see the water brought from Yuma into San Diego County and up the coast to Los Angeles as it should be under the following conditions.

First, that Mexico get a square deal and approve of the diversion of the water.

Second, that it come either thru Mexico or thru Calexico thru the all American canal as per map I am sending you and come thru the mountains of San Diego County.

Enclosed find copy of my last letter written to the Metropolitan Water District for your information. As yet, I have received no reply.

It goes without saying that Laguna Salada is the cheapest storage possible and if we cannot make a treaty with Mexico utilizing Laguna Salada at least we can try for some adjustment of the amount of water the riparian owners including Mexico are going to have and adjudicate matters as between friends.

If you allow the construction of the Parker Dam by the Metropolitan Water District as shown on the map I am sending you said dam impounding 700,000 acre feet of water unquestionably Mexico's water supply is being materially damaged. The impounding and the diversion of that water at Parker dam to the Metropolitan Water District is a direct menace and loss to your water supply.

All work should be stopped unless and until the boundary commission have adjudicated this question to the satisfaction of Mexico and the United States.

Just so it applies to the division of water at Yuma as well.

I am trying to be a friend to Mexico and the United States and stop the almost criminal action as planned by the Metropolitan Water District to divert the water at Parker.

There may or may not be a necessity for building a dam at Yuma depending upon conditions. My first preference is the storage of water in Laguna Salada. This would be a great factor in controlling the lower Colorado River in Mexico, thereby protecting thousands of acres of your splendid tillable land which is now overflowed and is a menace. Whether the dam is built at Yuma or Laguna Salada is for future adjustment but now is the opportunity for all of us to fight against the Metropolitan Water District's plan, first for their own benefit as the cost is well nigh criminal, second, for fair play to Mexico and the lower riparian owners.

I hope you can see your way clear to make a formal protest to Washington and to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation that Mexico's vital interests are jeopardized by the building of this Parker system

and diverting of 1500 second feet of water to the Metropolitan Water District within another water shed contrary to international, national and state law.

This will stop the Reconstruction Finance Corporation from ever giving the Metropolitan Water District a dollar, in my opinion, until the whole question is amicably adjusted and fair to all parties.

With kind regards,
Sincerely yours,

EF:ASK

EF:ASK

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History

October Twentieth
1 9 3 2

His Excellency
General A. L. Rodriguez,
President United States of Mexico
Mexico City

My dear Mr. President:

The Metropolitan Water District are preparing to advertise for bids for building 40 or 50 miles of tunnel on the Parker route to divert water from the Colorado River to Los Angeles.

I feel that Mexico not alone has rights as riparian owner but undoubtedly some control of the river thru the International Boundary Commission.

I wrote you several days ago and sent a map pertaining to same, writing as between friends and confidentially. Do not think me presumptuous in making the following suggestion.

Try and find some excuse either as a riparian owner or as an owner under existing treaties with the United States and with the authority given to the International Boundary Commission why not write a letter of protest to the Secretary of State at Washington asking, as between Nations that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation not ~~than~~ the 40 million dollars to the Metropolitan Water District and I am sure on the request of the United States of Mexico the United States government will delay the making of any loan by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to the Metropolitan District.

If we can only get a delay of a year or two maybe less I am sure by that time between the agitation of San Diego County, Orange County and Los Angeles citizens we can get the State of California to make a thorough investigation of the Southern route which is the most logical, will cost less to build and will be operated at nearly one-half the cost as compared to the Parker route. I am sure it will force also a satisfactory adjudication of the waters of the Colorado River fair to all parties in interest.

I am not asking you to even answer this letter but I am only writing as between friends and hope you can find some reason satisfactory to you and your government to write a letter to the Secretary of State. I am writing this letter wholly on my own initiative without the knowledge of any one else and know you will take this letter in the spirit in which it is written.

With kind personal regards,
Sincerely yours,

EF:ASK

April 24, 1944

Governor A. L. Rodriguez,
Hermosillo,
Sonora, Mexico

My dear General:

In accordance with your suggestion re the problem of water supply for your Santa Tomas ranch, will say:

We left here early and at 9:30 were in Ensenada where we met Mr. Ferro and his brother-in-law. We spent nine hours on the ranch; five hours of it in the saddle, going up the Santa Tomas river within a mile or so of the Hot Springs.

You have a splendid water supply. I see no reason why an expensive dam should be built at the present time and do not think conditions warrant it to irrigate your 5000 acres.

I am informed the water runs there the year around. A small diverting dam, costing not to exceed \$2000 or \$3000 can be built at that point—the water diverted—and it may furnish sufficient water to irrigate the 2000 or 3000 acres of land that is not yet cleared of brush at the south end of the valley.

I have asked Mr. Ferro, and he said he would have an engineer immediately make a survey to determine the distance between the high point where you commence to irrigate on your ranch and the upper Santa Tomas damsite—I would say it is six or seven miles, and there must be a difference of 600 or 800 feet between the two points and when I do get the elevations I will then make recommendations.

As to what type of pipe to put in and estimate of cost—it seemed to me that the pipeline should be built so as to take advantage of the electric power possibilities. It would mean a good deal to the ranch and worth considering as you are 20 miles away from a power line.

As regards irrigating the northerly end of the ranch to the ranch house, will say this is easily done and at Los Aliso where you are now diverting the water by a temporary dam and it is flowing by gravity over the northerly 2000 acres. There is a natural dyke there that holds back the water and as you know creates a sponge and swamp of 150 or 200 acres of land. By building this cut-off, and thus forcing the water to the surface, it will by gravity flow over practically the entire northerly 2000 acres.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I sent to Mr. Ferro

General Rodriguez--#2

MAP AS Lined

For an additional supply when needed a string of wells can be put across there; that swamp drained--which will undoubtedly double your water supply for the emergency. We installed a smaller group of wells under similar conditions at El Monte and developed 6 million gallons of water a day above Lakeside on the San Diego River. It can be done at that spot, very cheaply indeed, and operated either by a Diesel or probably electric power.

Mr. Ferro will be in San Diego this week and we will show him the El Monte pumping plant; also have him meet our superintendent for 19 years, Mr. Harritt and arrangements made to have Mr. Harritt go down with my son, Ed Jr., and look the situation over on the ground and make his recommendations. Mr. Harritt is now the manager of the largest irrigation district in San Diego County and has been in the water game all his life.

Regarding the Green Canyon Dam--it is a poor job and no arrangements were made for a spillway in time of flood with the result that the dam over-topped and some little damage occurred, but that is easily corrected by building a small diverting dam above, diverting the stream around the little dam and lake so that no flood water goes into the lake, otherwise it would silt up in a couple of years. It is practical to divert the water and when diverted, add sufficient height to the dam, five or six feet with a thin slab of concrete, say four inches thick at the top and 6 at the base. There will not be much pressure and you can get two or three times the amount of water the dam now holds.

The money is not thrown away by any means. As soon as the survey on the upper Santa Tomas dam site is completed and Mr. Harritt's report comes in regarding the Los Aliso cut-off, with his recommendations on the string of wells, I will immediately have the State Engineer of California, or his official representative, finally pass on everything for your benefit and there will be no charge.

It is a pleasure to be of service, my friend, and I realize you need immediate action. You have a good man in Mr. Ferro. I like the way he goes after things. It is a pleasure to cooperate with him in every way possible.

Will be glad to see you the next time you and your good wife come to San Diego. Mrs. Fletcher and I want you to have dinner with us in our new home on Point Loma overlooking the bay and the Table Mountains in Mexico.

With kindest personal regards, I am,
Sincerely yours,

PS: I am enclosing a copy of a letter I sent to Mr. Ferro

April 24, 1944

Mr. Estavan Ferro
Bodegas de Santo Tomas Fabrica de Vinos
Ensenada, B.C.

Friend Ferro:

After a splendid dinner at the Italian restaurant, we arrived home at 11 o'clock Saturday night--happy and tired. We certainly enjoyed the trip.

Enclosed find copy of letter I have written General Rodriguez and I hope it meets with your approval.

As soon as you get your survey completed and we get the report from Mr. Harritt, then I would like to have one of the State officials of California double check and will let you know what his reaction is and give final recommendations. You will have it then and then do as you please and no hard feelings. We are glad to extend a friendly hand.

I am sure you have the surveyers and engineers and men down there to do the work without importing anyone from the States, unless it be the experts in laying the pipelines.

When we know what the pressure is and whether or not you are going to develop electric power or not--then is the time I will make suggestions as to what type of pipeline to put in. Everything depends upon how many miles of distribution pipelines on the Santa Tomas ranch you are going to put in. The more pipe you put in the less water you will lose by seepage. As I understand it practically everything will be irrigated by gravity--the north 2000 acres from Los Aliso. It may be advisable to build pipelines or it may be advisable just to build open ditches, cementing them with a hydraulic cement gun--easily and cheaply made.

Those are your own problems and can easily be determined by your own engineers. With the sand, gravel and water there you have only the importation of the cement and with cheap labor you can probably build most of your distribution lines of cement. I understand you have purchased concrete pipe manufacturing equipment--let me know what's holding it up and I will try to help you get the equipment released.

Thanks for a happy day and if I am not here Ed Jr. will be glad to show you around when you come to San Diego to look over our water problems here and particularly the El Monte Pumping Plant. I have suggested to Ed Jr. that he show you the Mt. Helix reservoir, Murray Lake, the El Monte pumping plant and El Capitan Dam. I am leaving tomorrow on State business in Sacramento for a week or ten days and will have to go up almost to the Oregon line on private business--will return about the 6th of May.

Mr. Ferro—#2

Ed Jr. will arrange with you to have Mr. Harritt go down to Ensenada and I hope you will have the completed survey of the pipeline from the upper Santa Tomas damsite where we start down to the highest point on your Santa Tomas land that you propose to irrigate--with all the reports--on the 5th or 6th of May.

In the meantime, while in Sacramento, I will see our State Engineer and see if he cannot come down immediately, say around the 10th or 15th of May, to look things over, and let him criticize the suggested plans, so that you can have the benefit of Harritt's judgment, the State Engineer's judgment and my own--then do as you please.

You can get word to me through my office at any time and let me know about when you want the State Engineer to come down and look over the proposed surveys and the report of Mr. Harritt.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

STATEMENT OF MR. FERRO

Regarding the trucks see Mr. Giraud. Mr. Ferro telephoned him two or three days ago and got no encouragement. Mr. Giraud said the only way to get them was through the Mexican Government at Mexico City. He does not realize that Santa Tomas ranch is 3500 miles from Mexico City.

Mr. Ferro telephoned the International Harvester Company in Chicago and they said they had the trucks available but the only way to get them was to have a special project declared and the request granted by Mr. Giraud and then the International Harvester Company could release them. We must have five trucks

- 2 K-11
- 3 K-7

Requests in:

- 3 50,000 gallon redwood tanks. The emergency is for the increased amount of grapejuice and wine and need the tanks for storage. We have had an average of a million gallons a year; this year there will a million and a quarter

Trucks--2 K--11. We need because the trucks we have are completely worn out and they have to be replaced. We need them to haul our materials from the United States--thousands of tons per year.

- 3 K-7--for use on the ranch.

1 Twin Screw Press and 2 Filter presses--for making grapejuice needed in Mexico and United States as a food.

Case No. 17-0537387. Mr. H. K. Plumer with D. R. Sperry and Company, Batavia, Illinois. The application for this is now in the hands of Mr. Bowen of the Food Section of the WPB Telephone Ex. 7030, Extension 2008, Washington D.C.

All of these contacts can be made through the Foreign Economic Administration in Washington.

Scales--Fairbanks-Morse--applied twice, application refused twice. Mr. Wheeland, Chief of office handling scales

June 5, 1944

Mr. Estavan Ferro
Bodegas de Santo Tomas Fabrica de Vinos
Ensenada, B.C.

Friend Ferro:

I arrived home Thursday night from my eastern trip and have to leave almost immediately for a special session of the Legislature at Sacramento.

I find the enclosed letter from the International Harvester Company on my return. Mr. Salom is bringing all the pressure to bear possible to see that you get your allotment. I should have an answer in a few days.

I wish you would give me a ring the middle or last of the week of June 12th to 16th so that we may meet in San Diego and go over all these matters.

I am very much convinced that your only solution in the acquisition of trucks is that you acquire secondhand trucks and put your old trucks in condition—but I hope to get some information while up north in relation thereto.

With kindest regards,

PS: Mr. Ferro: The maps are here and Mr. Fletcher would like to have them translated into English and also get some other information about them before he gets back so if you could come into the office the next time you are in San Diego we would appreciate it.

Secretary

June 20, 1944

Mr. Estavan Ferro
Bodegas de Santo Tomas Fabrica de Vinos
Ensenada, B.C.

Friend Ferro:

I am just back from attending the Special Session at Sacramento.

I have not had any reply yet about new trucks, but the General Motors agent, Mr. Urrin W. Fox, 2345 Colorado Street, Pasadena, has just secured three trucks for the Hazard Company of San Diego. I am writing him a letter today. Enclosed find copy.

My advise to you is to follow this matter up at the earliest possible moment.

How are you getting along with the pipeline. I have looked over the profile and it can only be a gravity system—there is no possibility of power development and I agree with you that the logical thing is to build your own pipeline or cement ditch. You have the situation well in hand, and good luck to you.

Has anything new developed about the press? Congratulations on getting the scales.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 22 Folder: 32

General Correspondence - Rodriguez, Abelardo L.



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