

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
UNITED STATES RECLAMATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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

FEB -7 1919

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of Dec. 23, 1918, enclosing copy of an article printed in the Oceanside Blade, relative to the report of Mr. W. L. Huber to State Engineer W. F. McClure on the proposed San Luis Rey irrigation district.

It is noted from your letter that the proposed district, Oceanside to Del Mar, including 25,000 acres of land along the coast, has been favorably voted upon.

I am glad to keep in touch with the situation in this part of the State and thank you for writing me in regard to it.

Yours very truly,

*A. P. Davis*

Director.

FEB 12 1919

San Diego, California.  
February 14, 1919

Mr. A. P. Davis,  
Director, U.S. Reclamation Service,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Davis:

Answering yours of the 7th, will say that the San Luis Rey Irrigation District as proposed, would get its water from Warners Dam, to be constructed on the San Luis Rey River. The District, Oceanside to Del Mar is known as the Cardiff Irrigation District and is an entirely separate proposition, extending for 20-odd miles along the ocean front. It will receive its water from the San Dieguito Mutual Water Company system; Lake Hodges Dam and San Dieguito Dam having already been built, as well as conduit line to the ocean.

I am very anxious to have you come to San Diego and look this project over. Hoping to see you here at an early date, I remain,

Yours very truly,

EF/bm

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Aug. 1, 1919.  
UNITED STATES RECLAMATION SERVICE

Mr. F. L. Richardson,  
909 American Bldg.,  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of July 26 regarding the San Luis Rey River and the effect of prospective government investigation or construction on the proposed organization of an irrigation district, and other matters.

In the Federal work in irrigation we like to deal with irrigation districts and I think it is proper to say that the chances and facilities for government work are enhanced by the existence of suitable districts. Certainly the fact that the Government is making some investigation as to this project should not deter the local people from going ahead with district organization.

While it is true that we are making an investigation it should be emphasized that there is no assurance whatever at present that the Government will go any further and undertake any construction work. Under present law and authority from Congress it is impossible for us to undertake the construction of additional projects to those now in hand. Numerous suggestions are being made for an expansion of the government activity in irrigation and land settlement, and some of these are being pressed forcibly in Congress so that we hope for some action along this line. Until Congress acts we can make no definite engagements. As I understand it, your people were considering the organization of a district, intending through this to finance the construction themselves. Certainly nothing we are now able to do should lessen their efforts along that line. It is our policy to require or encourage the organization of irrigation districts where government funds are used for construction. Thus the organization of a district in this case would be a step forward regardless of how the work may later be financed and might save time in either case.

The replies to your specific questions are as follows:

1. Is it true that the Government is investigating this project?

Yes.

2. If the Government should purchase the Warner project, would it be willing to sell water to an irrigation district or to sell the complete system to the district?

Yes; but a categorical reply to this may be misleading. A complete reply is bound up in the laws governing our operations, notably the following:

Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat., 388);  
Warren Act of February 21, 1911 (36 Stat., 925);  
Reclamation Extension Act of August 13, 1914 (38 Stat. 686).

3. Can we be of any service in encouraging the Government to take over the Warner project?

As already stated, lack of authority and funds from Congress make it impossible for us to make any definite engagement of this sort for the immediate present. The matter therefore really rests with Congress and your representatives there are presumably familiar with your needs and desires. So far as administrative matters are concerned, the organization of an irrigation district would be a step forward in the preparation for government as well as private action.

Very truly yours,

*A. P. Davis*

Director.

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ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
UNITED STATES RECLAMATION SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Aug. 1, 1919.

Col. Ed Fletcher,  
920 Eighth St.,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Colonel Fletcher:

I have your letter of July 26, which reaches me at the same time as that from Mr. Richardson, to which you refer.

I was glad to reply to his inquiries, and for your information I am enclosing herewith copy of my letter.

With best personal regards, I remain,

Yours truly,

*A. P. Davis*

Director.

enc.

**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 6 Folder: 16**

**General Correspondence - Davis, A.P.**



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