

February 12, 1942

Mr. J. W. Dunham, Associate Engineer,
c/o District Engineer, U. S. Engineer's Office,
751 So. Figueroa Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Attention: Mr. Behout

My dear Mr. Dunham:

I appreciate your giving me a little of your time, and in answer to your inquiries will say, first, the capacity of San Clemente Reservoir, a proposed earthfill dam, can be made to hold 10 to 12 thousand acre feet of water for all practical purposes. The dam site and the lands that will be flooded are now owned by the United States government.

Mr. Pyle says that the Pano and Roden sites, for all practical purposes, can easily be built to hold 35,000 acre feet. I would recommend a rockfill dam at the Pano site, while at the Roden site, at a minimum of expense, a concrete dam, or an earthfill dam, can be built that will hold 75,000 to 100,000 acre feet of water, with an independent spillway. I believe I can deliver you our original survey.

The elevation of Pano is approximately 860 feet above sea level, San Clements 620 feet. The city owns practically all of Pano and Roden dam sites and reservoir sites. It would not cost to exceed \$20,000 to \$25,000 to get the balance of land needed for floodage purposes.

Let me stress the importance of a pipe line from Pano going down the San Pasqual Valley on its way to San Clemente Reservoir, Linda Vista mesa, Camp Elliott and the city -- that the pipe line is adjacent to the largest underground reservoir of water in the county, and the City of San Diego owns those water bearing gravel lands for three miles up and down San Pasqual Valley. If you would care to have it I would be glad to give you a map showing the ownership of the lands above Lake Hodges in the San Pasqual Valley owned by San Diego.

Speaking of Sutherland Reservoir which we visited

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yesterday afternoon, the City owns the damsite, reservoir site and lands flooded. The elevation is approximately 1920 feet above sea level, and I am sending under separate cover a map showing you how easy it is to put the water into San Vicente or El Capitan, with a 900 foot power drop.

For not to exceed \$300,000 to \$350,000, by a pipe line, the water can be dumped from Sutherland into San Vicente watershed and run by gravity into San Vicente Reservoir. San Vicente has a wonderful damsite and storage capacity, but damn little water.

Three years ago I got all the riparian owners whose rights had not already been acquired by the city, in San Pasqual Valley to agree for about the sum of \$150,000 to give permission to complete Sutherland Dam and take the water out of the watershed originating East of Sutherland Dam. The city has the money in the bank for this purpose but as yet has not seen fit to act.

I gave you a copy of the itinerary of the California Joint Interim Committee of the Legislature yesterday with the data and information. This information was prepared by the City Engineer, Mr. Pyle. On Page 3 you will note Mr. Pyle says: "Before the dam can be completed it will be necessary to purchase land and water rights". This is not true, for permission can be secured to complete the dam as heretofore stated. It will probably cost \$200,000 now to get the consent so that Sutherland can be completed.

Another stumbling block which absolutely amounts to nothing is his statement, on Page 3: "It will also be necessary to reach an understanding with the Santa Fe and San Dieguito Irrigation Districts as to shortage of water". If you will look at the run-off records into the ocean of the water over the top of Lake Hodges Dam the last few years you will see how ridiculous that possibility is. All the city has to do is to put in a 10 ft. Tainter gate at Lake Hodges, something I have been advocating for years, that will add another 10,000 acre feet of water, or more in Lake Hodges. Then there is always the recourse of pumping out of the Lake Hodges gravels if an emergency occurs, or from San Pasqual gravels. They never have used any water from Hanshaw Lake.

The contracts with the San Dieguito and Santa Fe Irrigation Districts limit the amount of water that they can ever take. They are up to their limit now. The city's pipe line to La Jolla can only take 3 million gallons daily. If there is a desire on the part of the city to cooperate there will be no trouble in eliminating all of the objections that have been brought up to develop Sutherland, without costing the city anything, excepting the installation of gates, or raising the dam a little, the foundations being absolutely strong enough to increase the height of Lake Hodges.

dam 20 feet if desired.

The city already has 2 1/2 million invested in a splendid dam two-thirds completed at Sutherland, and as before stated it owns all of the lands flooded. In my opinion, for \$1,250,000 to \$1,500,000 the entire Sutherland project can be completed and three-fourths of the people of San Diego County are demanding it, and let it be hooked in either with El Capitan reservoir of San Vicente, preferably San Vicente.

Regarding the comparative merits of Mission Gorge No. 3 and No. 2 on the San Diego River, you will notice on Page 2 under Mission Gorge, the City Engineer, Mr. Pyle, calls for 30,000 acre feet storage and states "two good dam sites are available, known as Mission Gorge No. 2 and Mission Gorge No. 3." We have the record of core drillings of Mission Gorge No. 3 which we can send you at any time.

I am enclosing copy of the state engineer's letter to the effect that his department will approve a constant angle single arch type of dam there, which can be built for very much less than a gravity arch type and the site is ideal for that type of dam.

My children own Mission Gorge No. 3 and I have been fighting for it for many years, while the city officials have tried to put over No. 2 in preference, but at two different elections the people of San Diego have voted Mission Gorge No. 2 dam down. Once it only carried by a small majority when it needed two-thirds, and the second time it did not even get a majority. The reasons the people of San Diego voted it down are as follows:

No. 2 if built floods thousands of acres of good land that should be farmed in perpetuity and not destroyed by being covered with water, an evaporation pan. Mr. Freeman in his report called it a "cow pasture". A dam built to hold 30,000 acre feet of water in No. 2 also floods the town of Santee and the state highway. It floods the county poor farm where the county has a half million dollars invested. The cost of acquiring these lands is prohibitive and the evaporation alone is prohibitive.

The same amount of water stored at Mission Gorge No. 3 by the building of a dam there adds 9 square miles of watershed as compared to No. 2 and the water is stored in a canyon where Nature intended it, with not to exceed 150 or 200 acres of good farm land being flooded.

The former City Engineer, Mr. Savage, always advocated the building of No. 2 dam at Mission Gorge, which would have flooded 6,000 acres and all the water stored in that one lake. By so doing the net safe yield of the San Diego River would have been 4 to 5 million gallons daily less than by building three dams, one at El Capitan, one at San Vicente

and the proposed one at Mission Gorge No. 3. These three dams will cost less when completed than the major project at Mission Gorge No. 2 and we will have 4 to 5 million gallons additional net safe yield which would be lost if only Mission Gorge No. 2 had been built.

The flood control problem also is a factor. I called your attention to the fact that the United States government is spending a large sum of money for the purchase of water from the city, paying exorbitant rates. If the government builds Mission Gorge No. 3 it is only 3 miles for a pipe line to Camp Elliott, with a small pumping lift and the water can be put to Camp Elliott, Camp Callan, including the building of Mission Gorge No. 3 at a cost of not to exceed 5 to 6 cents per hundred cubic feet, in my opinion, while the government is now paying from 20 cents per hundred cubic feet down to 11 cents depending on quantity for its water.

There are three pumping lifts in putting the water to Camp Elliott today. All of the Marine Base and Naval Training Station could be taken care of by an 8-mile pipe line down to the Marine Base from Mission Gorge No. 3, by gravity.

If you wish at any time to have the record of the core drillings and the copy of the Jorgensen constant angle single arch type of dam as prepared by him for construction in Mission Gorge No. 3, it will be a pleasure to send it to you with his costs which, of course, are now out of date.

Speaking of water from the Colorado River, if it comes from San Jacinto, the outlet at San Jacinto tunnel being 1504 feet elevation, I would advise a pipe line direct into the city under pressure, and as a controlling reservoir either San Clemente Reservoir or the Poway canyon just to the north, being the south branch of the Los Penasquitos Creek, which joins with Poway Creek near Poway.

My recollection is that an earthfill dam can be put in there that will hold 65 to 75 thousand acre feet and at sufficient elevation so it will flow by gravity across Linda Vista Mesa to the city. It is ridiculous to think of carrying the water from Metropolitan Water District from San Jacinto tunnel to San Vicente, building miles of tunnel costing 1 1/2 to 2 million extra, and in addition using the storage that is so vitally necessary in order to take the surplus from El Capitan and from Sutherland.

I also call your attention to the alignment of the pipe line from San Jacinto Tunnel as proposed by the Metropolitan Water District. I have this thought in mind - you might build a super-Hodges, run your pipe line across the dam directly across Linda Vista Mesa to San Diego making water available for that 40,000 acres on the Linda Vista Mesa, Camp Elliott on the left, Camp Callan on the right, and furnishing gravity water direct from the San Jacinto tunnel into the

city but storing surplus water in Lake Hodges, and in an emergency with a slight pumping lift using the same pipe line into the city in case the water is cut off from the Metropolitan Water District.

If it is eventually planned to bring the water from the Colorado River thru the All-American Canal near Kane Springs it only takes a 10 or 12 mile ditch from the present canal of the Imperial Irrigation District, running west toward Borego, then a 50 or 60 mile pipe line and tunnel, lifting 1200 to 1300 feet, to put the water into the upper reaches of the San Diego River, and I call your attention to an independent storage shown on the map which I am sending you as "Fletcher Lake" on the North Fork of the San Diego River above Boulder Creek, which comes from Ouyamaca Lake, the main stream.

I am satisfied you could get 100 to 150 thousand acre feet of storage there at a reasonable cost, and at an elevation of around 1000 feet above sea level. I am just calling this possibility to your attention. It is just possible that El Capitan could be raised 40 or 50 feet, but it being an earth dam it would seem to me it would be safer to make an independent storage above that will take care of the North Fork of the San Diego River drainage, and also the water coming from the Colorado River.

Please excuse this rambling letter, but it is just to refresh your memory and to let you know it will be a pleasure to cooperate in every way on any and all problems, if and when you are authorized to investigate them in this county. It was a pleasure to have a little visit with you. I was particularly interested in your beach erosion discussion, and my first act, if I am in the legislature next January, will be to introduce a bill putting the whole problem under the jurisdiction of the state. I will have the bill introduced anyway, whether I am there or not.

Will be glad to have Mr. LaRue and Mr. Behout come down here and look the situation over on the ground. It is worth while in my opinion.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

EF M

June 16, 1944

Col. R. W. Putnam
U.S. Army Engineers
751 Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, California

My dear Col. Putnam:

Your San Diego office notified us that the Army was giving up lease W-868 Eng. 4774, being 32.63 acres of land in El Cajon valley.

We own this property and leased it to the government for a nominal sum, but we want to get the land back as soon as we can now that the camp has been abandoned. We have made a bid on the personal property.

Could you please expedite matters as soon as possible and get this lease cancelled and either confirm the sale to us of the personal property or sell it to others at the earliest possible moment, but clean it up.

If we get it we shall use it to house Nationals or have it for defense workers, but the property should not lie there idle any longer.

Your early attention to this matter will be gratefully appreciated.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

PS: I am enclosing Senate Bill 51 and Senate Bill 45—we put both of these propositions through and we hope to get a state engineer's report that you will have some confidence in and get the Army Engineers to put up a share of the funds to help conserve our water supply and flood control also. San Diego has ear-marked about \$5,000,000 out of the \$25,000,000 and of course San Diego will dig up its share also.

W-04-193-208
AS 13714
BE 27
115

September 18, 1944

Col. R. W. Putnam
U.S. Army Engineers
751 Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, California

My dear Colonel:

We were notified by the U.S. Engineers that they were abandoning the following leases: W 04193 eng. 115 and W 868 eng. 4774.

They had moved away 11 or 12 houses, but there were 5 or 6 houses and sheds left and would we make an offer in cancelling the leases for the balance of the improvements left on the property.

We made an offer in writing accepting the recommendations of the local office here and we received a telephone message our offer had been accepted in Los Angeles. Three or four weeks ago, the watchman was notified verbally to no longer watch the buildings out there by someone I don't know who it was, but the fact remains that we have done nothing for the reason that we have not received any official notice, yet the place is abandoned, things are being stolen and I am asking you to please send me a telegram Tuesday as to what is holding up, if anything, the completion of the cancellation of the leases in consideration of the damage, as per settlement recommended by the local office here.

I am leaving Wednesday morning to attend a meeting of the Commission on Interstate cooperation in Sacramento and from there go to Salt Lake City. I would like to make my plans definitely and leave word what to do before I go Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock by machine. I sincerely hope you will telegraph me collect, Tuesday.

Very sincerely yours,

In reply refer
To: 601.53 (El Cajon, Calif.
E. D. Fletcher Co. - W868-
eng-4774) LA-PAIRE-S7.21WFB

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIVISION ENGINEER
PACIFIC DIVISION
REAL ESTATE DIVISION
LOS ANGELES SUB-OFFICE
621 SOUTH HOPE STREET
LOS ANGELES 14, CALIF.

26 June 1944

Senator Ed Fletcher,
1020 Ninth Avenue,
San Diego 1, California

Dear Sir:

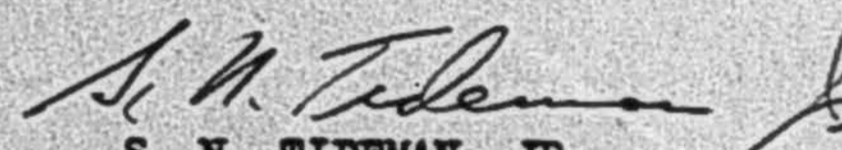
Your letter of June 16, 1944, to Col. R. W. Putnam, has been referred to this office for attention.

The property under this lease has been declared surplus and a portion of the buildings are being transferred to another agency.

As soon as a directive is issued directing disposal of balance of the buildings, you will be notified as it is the intention of the Government to return these properties to the owners as quickly as possible.

For the Division Engineer:

Yours very truly,


S. N. TIDEMAN, JR.,
Major, Corps of Engineers,
Chief, Los Angeles Sub-Office.

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 31 Folder: 21

**General Correspondence - United States
Engineer, California offices, various**



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