

-- COPY --

August 13, 1917.

Messrs. Bard,
Bacon, and
Bruschi.

*File
102*

San Diego, Calif.

Gentlemen:

I regret that the City officials of San Diego have not realized the situation and taken advantage of our offer to sell water to the City. I do not feel under any moral or legal obligation to sell the city any water whatever, at the present time; but I do consider it almost criminal that the City Council of San Diego cannot see the point; i.e., that the Cuyamaca Water Co. is going to dispose of its surplus water and if it cannot sell it to the city it is going to sell it for irrigation. Once this water is attached to lands and used for irrigation purposes, it can never be taken away. We are every month attaching water for irrigation purposes to new lands. Every drop of water sold for irrigation purposes for new lands reduces to just that extent the amount of water that we can furnish the City of San Diego, and within the next few weeks we shall probably dispose of all our surplus water.

You can readily understand that we are not going to furnish water to the City and take a chance of suit for damages from our consumers. If it comes to a point where we are taking any chances, we will force the City of San Diego to put up a satisfactory bond to protect us, before the city will get any water from this system. I am thoroughly convinced that a series of dry years are ahead of us, and that this condition will arise in the near future, with the

growth of our city and the added demands for the Cantonment.

If the City of San Diego wants to make a contract with us, for one or two million gallons of water a day for the next twelve months or two years, at six cents (6¢) a thousand gallons, delivered to the city limits, we securing from your Health Officer, Dr. Banks, a proper certificate as to the quality of the water, I am willing to recommend that the Cuyamaca Water Co. take on an obligation of this kind. If the City of San Diego only wants to buy a small amount of water from us from time to time, the price will be ten cents (10¢) a thousand gallons, but the City cannot expect us to hold ourselves in readiness at all times to furnish the city with water, with no assurance of the sale of any water to the city.

It has been proven once that the Cuyamaca Water Co. saved the situation for sixty days, after the floods of 1916. If the fact that we are in position to take care of the City's needs in an emergency is not worth anything, the quicker we find it out the better, and we will dispose of our water elsewhere, but as a matter of insurance alone, in my opinion, the city of San Diego certainly should tie up our surplus water rather than have it attached to lands and be lost forever, except at a prohibitive figure.

I am sending a copy of this letter to a few of the citizens of San Diego. It is not my desire to make this letter public, but it is a frank expression from one man to another of the water situation, as I see it.

Kindly treat this letter as wholly personal.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Ed Fletcher.

August 13, 1917.

Mr. Ed Fletcher,
Manager Cuyamaca Water Co.,
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Sir:

I feel that I should call your attention to the increase in consumers of irrigation water on the Cuyamaca system, which are as follows:

For the month of	May,	300
"	June,	196
"	July,	44

Some of the above are domestic consumers, who have taken advantage of the emergency irrigation rate. However, there is a decided increase in the demand for irrigation water.

I feel it is my duty to call your attention to an order of the Commission, giving us authority to sell only 40 inches additional water for irrigating purposes, as shown on page 16 of decision No. 4058. As you are aware, there are applications in our office for nearly 100 inches of irrigation water, and over 40 inches from one organization alone in Spring Valley, which will soon be ready to demand all of our surplus water in question.

Very sincerely yours,

CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY,

(Signed) Lou B. Mathews

Secretary.

M-S

102

Personal

September 18, 1917.

Dr. H. P. Bard,
City Council,
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Dr. Bard:

I write you this personal letter,
that under date of September 14th, I received the
following letter from my associate:

"I think
it would be very desirable to notify the
City that if they do not accept our offer
of 6¢, the price is withdrawn, and then in
case they request water to quote them 10¢,
as authorized by the Railroad Commission."

As soon as I hear from my other associate, I shall
withdraw our offer.

Yours very truly,

F-S

C2600

January 22, 1918.

Dr. H. P. Bard,
City Council,
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Dr. Bard:

In the first place, I want to thank you
very kindly for the words of praise which you gave me at
the La Mesa meeting.

In the next place, I want to say that if the City of
San Diego builds El Capitan dam and takes away the surplus
water, there is no source of supply whatsoever to take care of
the growing needs of the section around La Mesa, and it does
seem a crime that the city of San Diego should go after that
only source of supply when the La Mesa section needs it so
much for its future growth.

Why put two or three million dollars into a dam at El
Capitan when for \$450,000 two dams can be built- one at the
Diverting Dam and one at Conejos, which will fill the entire
bill and accomplish the same results as at El Capitan, and
keep the water at an elevation where it ought to be .

By the way, I have instructed Mr. King to send you a
large map showing the roads of San Diego County. Your other
map is altogether too small.

I am leaving today for Washington, for better or for
worse.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

F-S

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 1 Folder: 34

General Correspondence - Bard, Dr. H.P.



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