

COPY

War Department
United State Engineer Office
751 South Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, Calif.

March 1, 1934.

County Engineer,
San Diego County,
San Diego, California.

Dear Sir:

It will be greatly appreciated if this office
be furnished for official use, information relative to
any improvements on any stream within San Diego County,
where flood control or other improvement has been
effected or appears feasible. A county map showing
such projects would also be of great assistance.

Very truly yours,

(signed)

H. H. Stickney

Major, Corps of Engineers,
District Engineer

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COPT

March 7, 1934.

Ernest R. Childs, by B. B. Moore, Deputy

Mr. H. H. Stickney, Major, Corps of Engineers, Dist. Engr.,
751 South Figueroa St., Los Angeles.

Flood Control in San Diego County.

Your letter of March 1st, asking for information
pertaining to any flood control improvement, or
contemplated improvement, made in this county, has
been referred to Mr. P. H. Van Etten, Senior
Hydraulic Engineer, State Division of Water Resources,
Room 6, Pier No. 1, San Diego, California.

I have furnished him with a County map and he signified
his willingness to give you the desired information.

Yours respectfully,

Ernest R. Childs
County Surveyor and
Ex-officio Road Commissioner

by B. B. Moore Deputy

BBM:s

CC Mr. VanEtten.

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Y

Room 6, Municipal Pier No.1,
San Diego, California.
March 14, 1934.

Major H. H. Stickney, District Engineer,
United States Engineer Office,
751 South Figueroa Street,
Los Angeles, California.

My dear Major Stickney:

Mr. Ernest R. Childs, County Surveyor of San Diego County, has referred to me for reply your letter of March 1, 1934 requesting information relative to improvements for flood control on San Diego County streams. The State Division of Water Resources is conducting a flood control investigation of the San Diego River and the Tia Juana River from the International Boundary to the Pacific Ocean. This investigation was started in August 1933 and will be completed sometime this year.

I am enclosing a map of San Diego County on which is marked present development on the various streams and a few observations on the general conditions regarding flood control follows

Due to the semi-arid nature of this area and with major flood flows occurring at several year intervals, the stream channels in the valleys are poorly defined and of small capacity, resulting in the larger flows flooding practically all valley floors from hill to hill. While reservoirs now constructed are for water conservation, considerable flood regulation is afforded by them to the smaller floods but with much less regulation to large floods, especially when they occur at a time when previous storms have filled the reservoirs.

As the valleys are all comparatively narrow, the cost per acre of constructing adequate flood protection will be high. Also the limited water resources locally available to this county make conservation of water of primary importance, and it is believed that any solution of flood control problems must be coordinated with conservation.

Temporary improvements have been made during the past year on the channels of the San Luis Rey, the San Dieguito and the Tia Juana Rivers. This work has consisted of clearing the brush and trees from the channel for about 200 feet in width, and on the Tia Juana River, the bottom of the channel was plowed after clearing, to loosen the soil and roots and prevent immediate growth of the brush. It is believed that this work will materially lessen the danger of flood damage to the valley lands immediately adjacent to these channels for a year or so.

The City of San Diego has under construction El Capitan dam on the San Diego River at a point about seven miles above the town of Lakeside, which will create a reservoir of 117,000 acre feet storage

Major H. H. Stickney, March 14, 1934.

Page 2.

capacity. It will be part of the City's water supply system. No flood control features are being incorporated in the dam, but the temporary storage above the spillway lip will materially reduce the crest flows of any floods passing through the reservoir.

As there are approximately 244 square miles of drainage area below El Capitan dam and above Old Town, Mission Valley and the Mission Bay area are subject to serious flood damage, as also are all lines of communication by land leading from San Diego to the north. At the head of Mission Valley, in Mission Gorge, dam and reservoir sites exist which are feasible for flood control and water conservation.

The United States Government agencies in San Diego purchase annually about \$75,000 worth of water. The War Department maintains the "Government" dyke between Old Town and Point Loma for protection of the Marine Base and San Diego Harbor. The lands in Mission Valley and in the Mission Bay area subject to flood damage are within the city limits or adjacent thereto with high potential values if reclaimed.

A coordinated flood control and water conservation project on the San Diego River in Mission Gorge therefore might be attractive to the Federal Government by reason of the direct Federal benefits, and perhaps warrant investigation. The annual charge for water used by the Government agencies if capitalized would represent a material part of the capital costs of the project.

I shall be glad to furnish you with any additional information that I may have should you desire it.

Very truly yours,

P. H. Van Etten.
Senior Hydraulic Engineer.

Address Reply To
The District Engineer,
U.S. Engineer Office,
751 South Figueroa Street,
Los Angeles, Calif.

WAR DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE
751 SOUTH FIGUEROA STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

June 18, 1936.

SUBJECT: Preliminary Examination, San Diego River,
with view to flood control.

TO: Colonel Ed Fletcher,
State Senator,
1020 Ninth Avenue,
San Diego, California.

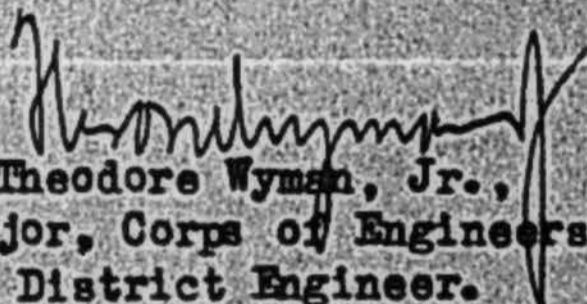
Dear Sir:

The district engineer received a letter from Hon. George Burnham, Representative in Congress, dated June 10, 1936, giving a list of principal parties interested in flood control of the San Diego River, and notes that your name is on the list.

Mr. F. M. Lockwood, the Assistant City Manager of San Diego, was communicated with by telephone on June 16, concerning the public hearing to be held by the district engineer in that connection. This hearing has been set for July 24, and will be held at 10 A. M. in the Council Chambers, San Diego City Hall.

If you think that there will not be sufficient time to prepare the information you desire to submit at the hearing, it is requested that this office be so informed as soon as practicable, in order that a change in date of hearing can be given prompt consideration. An early reply is requested.

Very truly yours,


Theodore Wyman, Jr.,
Major, Corps of Engineers,
District Engineer.

June 19, 1936

Mr. Theodore Wyman, Jr.
Major, Corps of Engineers
7521 So. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, California

Dear Sir:

Thanks for your letter of the 18th relative to a hearing to be held July 24th, 10:00 A.M., San Diego City Hall, with reference to flood control of the San Diego River.

The above date is satisfactory to me.

Sincerely yours,

EF/jv

h2418

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WAR DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE
751 SOUTH FIGUEROA STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

June 22, 1936.

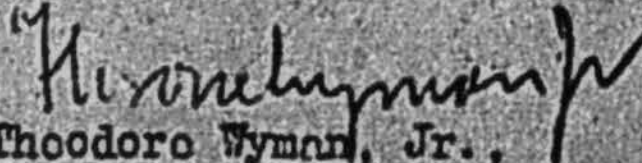
The Congressional Act, Public 570 - 74th Congress, approved May 6, 1936, having authorized a preliminary examination of the San Diego River and its tributaries in the State of California, with a view to the control of its floods, a public hearing will be held in the Council Chamber in the City Hall, San Diego, California, at 10 A. M., Friday, July 24, 1936.

All interested parties are invited to be present or to be represented at the above time and place, particularly those interested in flood control and the officials of any county, city, town or local association whose interests may be affected by the desired improvements. They will be given an opportunity to express their views upon the suitability and adequacy of said improvements with reference to flood control, and to suggest changes therein that they may consider desirable.

The information desired is as follows:

1. Description in detail, if practicable, of the character and location of the desired improvements and approximate estimated cost.
2. Full information as to the extent and character of areas threatened by, or subject to floods, including monetary value and productivity of said areas.
3. The economic and other justification for the expenditures entailed by the desired improvements, based upon saving of life and property, conservation of water, etc., the development of power, and benefits to navigation, if any.
4. Floods, their frequency and severity, and damages that have been inflicted by said floods.
5. The monetary value of benefits to accrue to various interests from the desired improvements, segregated into approximate percentages.
6. Any other information that may be pertinent to the question of flood control of the San Diego River.
7. The cooperation and/or contribution, which the United States may expect of local interests toward the cost of the desired improvements, or in construction, at local expense, of complementary works.

Oral statements will be heard, but for accuracy of record all important facts and arguments should be submitted in writing, as the records of the hearing will be forwarded for consideration by the War Department. Written statements may be handed to the undersigned at the hearing, or mailed to him beforehand, and should be submitted in quadruplicate.


Theodore Wyman, Jr.,
Major, Corps of Engineers,
District Engineer.

Copy Ed Hyatt - 6/29
" Tom Harpe - 6/29

June 28, 1936

Major Theodore Wyman, Jr.
Corps of Engineers
U.S. Engineer Office
751 South Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, California

My dear Major Wyman:

Answering yours of June 22nd, I am submitting in writing my views as suggested by you, and ask that same be included in the records of the hearing for consideration by the War Department. The solution of the flood control situation of the San Diego River is as follows:

The building of the San Vicente dam now owned by the City of San Diego which water shed will furnish a net safe yield of three (3) million gallons daily, and the building of Mission Gorge #3, part of the reservoir lands that will be flooded being owned by the City, which will give approximately a net safe yield of four (4) million gallons daily. The approximate cost of this water impounded in these two dams is not to exceed 12¢ a 100 cubic ft., while every drop of impounded water heretofore developed by the City of San Diego cost 20¢ a 100 cubic ft.

The State of California have made a flood control survey of the San Diego River and same should be carefully examined. Complete surveys have been made both as to dam sites, type of construction, cost, lands flooded etc., and I will be glad to furnish maps if desired.

The main pipe line from El Capitan Dam can be used for the transfer of water into the City both from San Vicente by gravity with the necessity of building only about three miles of pressure pipe line to connect with the El Capitan pipe line, while the El Capitan pipe line adjoins Mission Gorge #3, and can be pumped from Mission Gorge #3 at a small expense with an average pumping lift of 100 ft., or, better still, a small pipe line can be run right down the valley - the dam reclaiming several thousand acres (now waste land) and the pipe line down the valley to Old Town will connect with the low water level of the City, furnishing sufficient pressure by gravity from Mission Gorge #3 to take care of the lower levels of the City. An estimate of this pipe line will be furnished if desired.

The State of California should and I believe will pay part of the expense of this development under their Flood Control program. They have done it elsewhere in many sections of California - having spent something like thirty-five (35) million dollars in the last twenty years.

Major Theodore Wyman, Jr.
June 26, 1936

With the building of these dams, the flood menace will be practically eliminated. In my opinion, Mr. Hoops' idea of dredging a big straight channel at an expense of two or three million dollars is ridiculous, and will soon fill up with sand again if San Vicente and Mission Gorge #3 dam sites are not developed. With San Vicente and Mission Gorge #3 dams developed, I do not see the necessity of an expenditure to exceed \$200,000 or \$300,000 - except possibly for a small channel which will take care of any flood - topping the dams. The City officials of San Diego undoubtedly will properly manipulate the storage in El Capitan, San Vicente and Mission Gorge #3 so as to lose very little, if any, water.

The Hoops' plan to me seems like an expenditure of a large sum of money and getting practically nothing in return, while the flood control plan which I suggest, means a conservation of such additional wealth for water, which is the blood of the soil and should be conserved.

The City, State and Federal Government should join in building these two dams at the earliest possible date. The development will furnish water for an additional 70,000 people, will reclaim three or four thousand acres of land, forever remove the flood menace to Mission Beach, and will add many millions to the taxable wealth of San Diego County.

If you need any further information on this subject, I will be pleased to furnish it.

Sincerely yours,

EF/jv

P.S. - The Federal activities, including Naval Training Stations, Marine Base, etc., need this additional protection for water supply, and the Federal Government in return for assisting in the financing of the above, should be given a low rate for water. The present price being extremely high, in my opinion, and I understand the Federal Government has from time to time complained as to the high price of water.

*4 copies enclosed with
original to Wyman*

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 35 Folder: 7

General Correspondence - Wyman, Theodore, Jr.



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