

CUYAMACA WATER CO.
FILE No. 103
DO NOT REMOVE
ANY LETTER
FROM THIS FILE.

August 31, 1915.

Mr. Ed Fletcher,
Office.

Dear Sir:-

Dr. O. G. Wicherski, the County Health Officer, was in the office this morning to see if something could not be done to improve the quality of the water in Normal Heights and Kensington Park. He stated that numerous complaints had been made to him and that people were pounding him over the back to take some action to compel this Company to install a filter or other means of making the water less offensive in appearance and odor.

I explained the whole situation to him, told him that the system would probably be transferred to the La Mesa District and explained the difficulty of securing any funds for improvements. He then asked that we make an effort to keep stock and especially hogs away from the Cuyamaca Reservoir, that he had seen hogs wallowing around the outskirts of the reservoir during a trip there last week. I promised to look into the matter and have already written Harritt to investigate while he is at Cuyamaca next week.

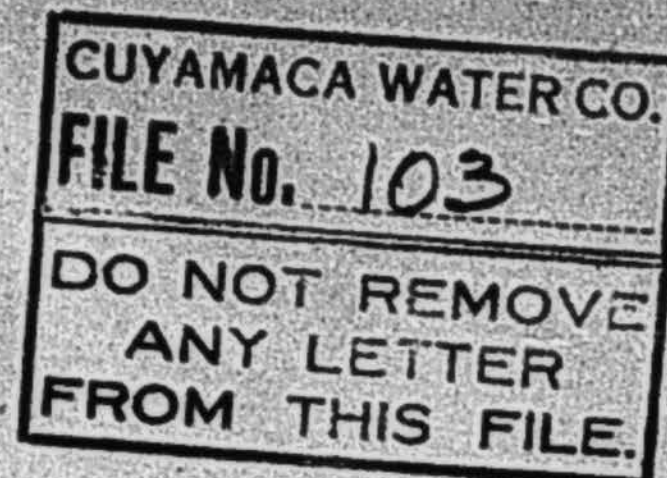
I have made an arrangement to take Dr. Wicherski to La Mesa, Murray Hill and Eucalyptus Reservoirs on Thursday and show him the actual conditions.

I do not believe at the present time he will do anything else than ask that we take a few simple sanitary precautions although I can give you a better idea of this after taking him out to the reservoirs. As soon as I can find out anything, I will advise you further.

F. M. Faude.

FMF-BK

Cuyamaca Water Co.
San Diego, Cal.
103
The following complaints were
recently made concerning the water
furnished by you
(1) Mrs. Williams
4245 Bay View
Normal Heights
(2) Mrs. J. M. Walthall
34th & Jefferson
Normal Heights
(3) Mrs. L. L. ...
2057 ...
Kensington Park
(4) Mrs. ...
4848 ...
Normal Heights
I hope you will be able to satisfy these
consumers, and oblige
Sincerely yours,
O. G. Wicherski
County Health Officer



September 27, 1915

Mr. Ed Fletcher,
Office.

Dear Sir:-

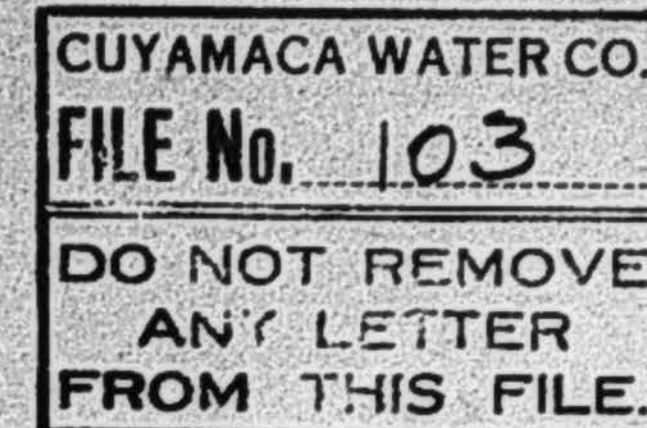
There has been considerable complaint all summer from the consumers in Normal Heights regarding the quality of water. The difficulty being that there is considerable suspended matter which is evidently decayed vegetable growth from the reservoirs carried down through the pipes and being drawn off in the Normal Heights section which is the lowest part of the system and is made up largely of long pipes in sparsely settled streets. The result being that the pipes are not emptied ~~out often enough~~ ^{them properly} to flush. There is also an objectionable odor to the water.

In July we had the entire system in Normal Heights and Kensington Park blown off and refilled with comparatively clean water with the result that for a short time there were no further complaints although this did not entirely remedy the objectionable features. Since that time the dead ends of the pipes have been blown off from time to time in an attempt to make the conditions better.

The County Health Officer, Dr. Wicherski, has several times called us up and asked that we do something to improve the quality of the water and has taken samples for analysis but has not entirely finished. I have offered to take Dr. Wicherski out to La Mesa, Murray Hill and Eucalyptus and show him some of the conditions, but so far he has been unable to go owing to other engagements. He has, however, promised to make the trip as soon as possible.

He stated to me that while at Cuyamaca he noticed a number of hogs wallowing in the mud at the edge of the lake and asked that we see to it that this practice be stopped. I immediately had Harritt look into the matter with the result that the hogs in the vicinity have been kept away from the reservoir. I told Dr. Wicherski that we had had Harritt and Ruis appointed deputies to enforce sanitary measures and he seemed pleased with the idea.

If you keep the system, it is evident that some arrangements will have to be made to screen and aerate the waters furnished at Normal Heights and Kensington Park. The best place to locate this plant will be at the top of El Cerritos Hill. Such a plant would cost probably not to exceed \$6000 and the cost would depend largely upon what a small piece of land could be purchased for. The cost of this work I believe could be covered by bond issue of which I will write you more in detail in a very



Mr. Ed Fletcher, page 2.

short time.

On Saturday one of the consumers from Normal Heights was in the office with a sample of water full of sediment and with a very disagreeable odor. This consumer stated that two of his children were sick and that the Doctor in charge blamed the water for the sickness. The consumer further stated that he wanted the Company to immediately take steps to give improved service and also to pay the Doctor's bills incurred during his children's sickness. He was also very much wrought up because he had been charged 25¢ penalty for non-payment of his bill until after the 10th of the month. I explained conditions to him, the difficulty of securing funds for the installation of filters, etc., the reports of such analysis of water showing its purity as has been made, also that the City water was in practically the same condition as that furnished by the Cuyamaca. This consumer, however, would listen to no argument whatever and told me that his story would be given to the Sun with a request that publication be made of it. I found it absolutely impossible to smooth him down in any way.

^{him} Shortly after he left I had Mathews see Mr. McGrew and request to hold up the story until such time as you could see him and explain matters. Mr. McGrew stated that an article had been left with them for publication but he would do nothing until you could see him.

I believe that it is an absolute necessity for the construction of a screening and aerating plant to improve the condition of the water furnished this District as otherwise the complaints will become so serious next summer that the Health Officer will order the installation of such a plant and you will probably be very lucky if you escape suits for damages on account of the bad condition of the water. I believe it would be very much to your advantage to decide immediately that such a plant is necessary if you keep the system and allow us to so inform complainants in the future.

Within the last few months there has been a Court Decision giving a consumer damages for sickness caused by impure water and I believe it is only a question of time when other Courts will follow this example.

Very truly yours,

FMP-K

January 25, 1916

Dr. O. G. Wicheraki,
603 Watts Bldg.,
San Diego, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

We have recently learned that a sheep camp has been established at the north end of La Mesa Reservoir and while this is not on land owned by this Company, we regard it as extremely desirable that no grazing of sheep be allowed on the water shed draining into the reservoir.

On several occasions in the past we have had considerable trouble with people who have established sheep camps near this reservoir and we have been unable to prevent the sheep from drinking from the Lake.

Can you tell us how to proceed against these people so that the practice will be stopped?

Very truly yours,

Assistant Manager.

EME-K

CUYAMACA WATER CO.
FILE No. 103
DO NOT REMOVE
ANY LETTER
FROM THIS FILE.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
J. P. SMITH, 1ST DISTRICT, SAN DIEGO
C. J. SWALLOW, 2ND DISTRICT, SAN DIEGO
JOSEPH FOSTER, 3D DISTRICT, FOSTER
H. CHAS. L. GOOD, 4TH DISTRICT, LEMON GROVE
G. F. WESTFALL, 5TH DISTRICT, FALLBROOK

BOARD OF HEALTH
O. G. WICHERSKI, M. D., PRES. & EXEC. HEALTH OFFICER
C. C. VALLE, M. D., SAN DIEGO
CARL S. OWEN, M. D., NATIONAL CITY
GEO. B. WORTHINGTON, M. D., CHULA VISTA
M. M. KAY, M. D., LAKESIDE
L. B. SANDALL, M. D., SANTA YSABEL
R. S. REID, M. D., OCEANSIDE
C. R. KNOX, M. D., EL CAJON
J. H. MALLERY, M. D., LA MESA
J. C. GRAFFIN, M. D., FALLBROOK

OFFICE OF
BOARD OF HEALTH
SAN DIEGO COUNTY

San Diego, Calif. July 16, 1916.

*Cuyamaca Water Co.
San Diego, Calif.*

Dear Sir:

Complaint has been made to this office that a reservoir owned by you, situated in Normal Heights contains some shallow water, and is a breeding place for mosquitoes.

Will you kindly remove the water by means of a pump or otherwise, and so operate with me in preventing the breeding of mosquitoes and removing cause of disease that might arise.

Sincerely yours,

*O. G. Wicheraki, M.D.
County Health Officer.*

CUYAMACA WATER CO.
FILE No. 103
DO NOT REMOVE
ANY LETTER
FROM THIS FILE.

Feb. 17, 1916.

Dr. O. G. Wicherski,
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Sir:

Answering yours of February 16th, will say
that this matter will be attended to immediately.

Yours very truly,

CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY,

Manager.

F-S

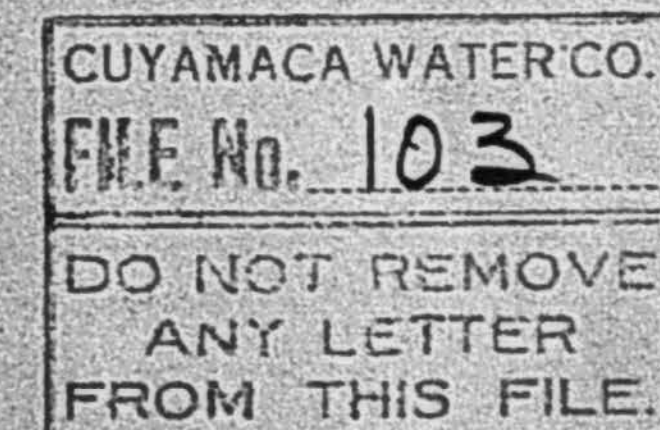
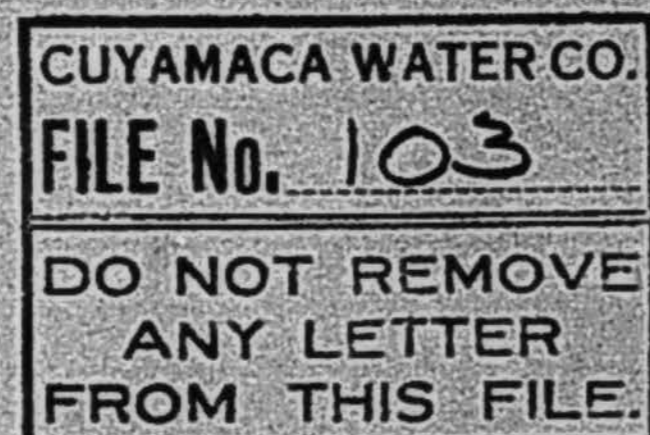
Feb. 17, 1916.

Mr. Faude:

Please attend to this complaint of County Health
Officer Wicherski immediately.

Ed Fletcher.

F-S



Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 34 Folder: 6

General Correspondence - Wicherski, Dr. O.G.



Copyright: UC Regents

Use: This work is available from the UC San Diego Libraries. This digital copy of the work is intended to support research, teaching, and private study.

Constraints: This work is protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). Use of this work beyond that allowed by "fair use" requires written permission of the UC Regents. Permission may be obtained from the UC San Diego Libraries department having custody of the work (<http://libraries.ucsd.edu/collections/mscl/>). Responsibility for obtaining permissions and any use and distribution of this work rests exclusively with the user and not the UC San Diego Libraries.