

June 21, 1915.

Mr. John L. Bacon,  
Assistant City Manager,  
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Bacon:

Enclosed find copy of letter written to the City of San Diego on December 24, 1914, which may be of interest. I received a copy of the resolution passed by the City Council on the 21st day of December, and the above was my answer.

Under these circumstances, I feel that I have a perfect right to demand that the city take water during the month of June. You have talked to a friend of mine on this subject, and, while I believe you are absolutely sincere in your opinion, I want you to hear both sides of the question, and I feel that I can get a square deal from you.

After the first of July, there is no obligation on the part of the City to buy any water from us. On the other hand, if we can be of service in an emergency, you need not hesitate to call upon us, and we will go the limit to help Mr. Lockwood and yourself in your management of the city affairs.

Yours very truly,

CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY,

Manager.

F-8

M. LOCKWOOD  
MANAGER OF OPERATION

JOHN L. BACON  
ASST. MGR. OPERATION

OPERATING DEPARTMENT

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
MAIN OFFICE CITY HALL

November 22, 1915.

Cuyamaca Water Company,  
924 Eighth Street,  
SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

ATTENTION F. M. FAUDE, ASST. MGR.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of November 20 regarding the percentage of loss in our collections I hope that the following information will meet your demands.

The records in this office show that only about \$300.00 has been lost in bad accounts in the last two years. We have now on our books about \$1,000.00 of outstanding accounts but we consider that this is all good as we refuse to give service until past bills have been paid up.

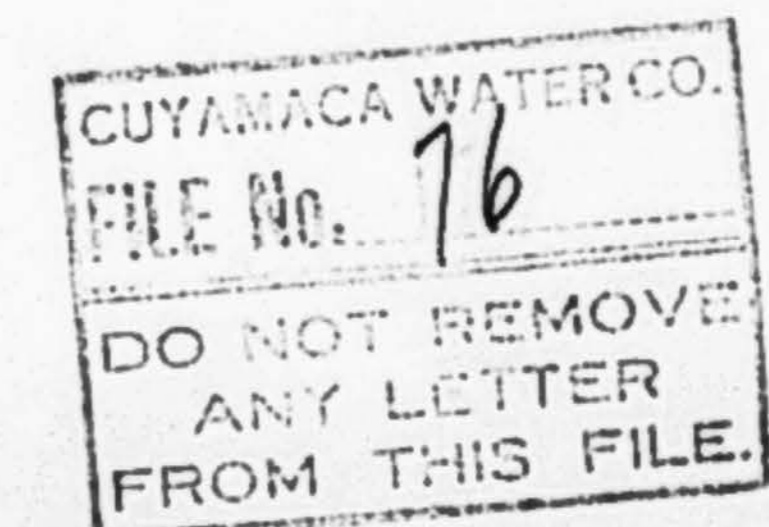
Even if the above amounts were bad bills it would only represent about one third of one per cent. of our total collections for the year, so you can see our loss would be so small as to hardly be considered.

I trust the above will give you the information desired.

Respectfully yours,

*John L. Bacon*  
ASSISTANT MANAGER.

JLB-F



June 15, 1921.

Mayor John L. Bacon,  
San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Mayor:

Agreeable to our verbal understanding the day we made the trip over the Cuyamaca System, and to Sutherland damsite, I submit the following information for your consideration:

Leaving out all personalities, the question is - what is the cheapest and most permanent plan for developing an additional supply of water for the complete control of the San Diego River for the City of San Diego, considering its finances? Shall we build El Capitan Dam, or in lieu thereof, build Mission Gorge and acquire the Cuyamaca System? And, by so doing furnish transportation, for forty odd miles, for the water that can be acquired from Sutherland, the headwaters of the Santa Ysabel River and now controlled by Mr. Henshaw.

After a thoro investigation by the U. S. Reclamation Service, the records show a net safe yield of 7.6 million gallons from Sutherland and 6.3 million gallons from Cuyamaca, or a net safe yield of approximately 14 million gallons daily.

This does not include 5 or 6 million gallons of water that can easily be secured during years of drought by pumping from the El Monte gravels from our El Monte pumping plant in case of necessity. Attached hereto is copy of exhibit of the Cuyamaca Water Company at the last hearing before the State Railroad Commission, showing the amount of water stored in the El Monte gravels, with a net safe yield of 4 million gallons daily. The present cost of pumping this water is between 3 and 4 cents per thousand gallons.

I am satisfied that the Sutherland damsite, the reservoir site, the riparian rights of diversion, the cost of construction of the dam and a conduit to a connection with the Cuyamaca System at the proposed

Page Two/

Fletcher damsite, together with the acquisition of the Cuyamaca System, and its reconstruction complete, will cost not to exceed \$6,000,000.00, or, roughly \$400,000 per million gallons daily net safe yield, as compared to the cost of the present city water of approximately \$1,000,000 per million gallons daily.

Mission Gorge damsite, reservoir site and pipe line to a connection with the lower levels at Old Town can unquestionably be acquired and constructed for not to exceed \$2,000,000 to \$2,500,000.

I want to emphasize especially this fact, that within a period of two or three months, we expect to close a contract with the Escondido Mutual Water Company to furnish Escondido with 5,000 acre feet of water from Warner's dam. This would mean the immediate construction of Warner's dam, and there will be a surplus of, roughly, 20,000 acre feet which Escondido cannot take, which will go either between Escondido and Oceanside, or on the lands tributary to the Santa Fe Railroad, or to the Linda Vista mesa and San Diego. I am very sure an arrangement can be made, if it is for the best interests of the city, whereby 5,000,000 gallons of water a day can be sold to the city, and the balance of the water put on the Linda Vista mesa, which directly benefits the city. In this way there will be no necessity of a bond issue to acquire an additional supply of water, and if the city desires to consider a proposition of this kind and will write a letter asking for a proposition, I am very sure a definite proposition can be submitted at an early date.

You are familiar with my El Capitan article and the U. S. Reclamation Service reports, showing that the net safe yield of El Capitan dam, if built, will not exceed, roughly, 5 million gallons daily. The total cost of construction of same will be \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000, at least, and after endless delay and litigation.

In other words, the development of Mission Gorge, or the acquisition of the Cuyamaca System, or both, will furnish a quicker source of supply to protect the City of San Diego in the emergency that now exists, and at a cost over one-hundred percent cheaper per million gallons daily as compared with the cost of the El Capitan supply. There may come a time when El Capitan will be built, and the Cuyamaca Company's

holdings, including the El Capitan damsite, will be acquired if the Cuyamaca System is purchased.

Enclosed find copy of the questions asked by the City Water Commission, and a copy of our answer in reply, all of which you will, undoubtedly, find of interest.

I am of the opinion that the Sutherland damsite, reservoir site and water rights can be acquired without the necessity of a bond issue, if arrangements are made within the next few months, and a reasonable time given to vote bonds for the acquisition of the Sutherland damsite, or an arrangement made similar to that in the acquisition of the La Jolla-Del Mar pipe line on yearly installments, which arrangement also applies to the Cuyamaca System. In neither case would a bond issue be necessary.

The Cuyamaca System can bring the Sutherland water from the diverting dam into the City without additional expense, for a large conduit is necessary in any event, to carry the water into Murray dam; and the big advantage is in putting either the Sutherland or the Cuyamaca water, in the winter time, into Lower Otay or Morena dam for storage, the elevation at the end of our flume at La Mesa being 620 feet above sea level, giving all the required pressure necessary, if taken either direct from the flume or from Murray dam. A pipe line 2-1/2 miles in length from Old La Mesa to the Chollas Heights reservoir, costing only \$50,000 or \$60,000, will enable the City to put 15 million gallons of water a day either into Lower Otay, or the City of San Diego, if desired, by connecting up with the city's pipe line at Chollas reservoir. We have an additional pipe line known as the 20" concrete pipe line along El Cajon Avenue which will carry 5 million gallons daily direct to the City.

If the City acquires the Cuyamaca System on yearly payments, without issuing any bonds, the first thing it can do is to have the owners of the Cuyamaca System bond said Cuyamaca System for sufficient money to build Fletcher dam, also double our pumping capacity in the El Monte gravels, and in that way be ready to protect the City in case we have two or three more dry years and shortage of water. The City will use, this year, an average of 11 million gallons daily. Admiral Welles is the authority for the statement that in five years there will be 25,000 more people here, owing to the activities of the Navy alone.

San Diego is growing rapidly. The City Water Department records show 756 new taps during the year 1920. The Gas and Electric Company's records show 2388 new gas and 3152 new electric connections during that same period. During the year 1920, the daily average consumption of water was 10,160,520 gallons. It is a serious question where the water is to come from for our present and future needs, and immediate action is necessary.

Referring again to the Cuyamaca System, I wish to say

First: That water delivered to the City can begin immediately from the Cuyamaca System, and in an emergency 6 or 8 million gallons daily can be pumped from the El Monte gravels over a long period of time. The transmission system is in and one-half the pumping equipment is now in operation. The balance of the pumping equipment can be installed for a sum not to exceed \$10,000 or \$15,000.

Second: With the ultimate development of the Cuyamaca System by the construction of Fletcher dam and a small South Fork dam, there are large quantities of water that otherwise would be wasted at frequent intervals, that could be stored in Lower Otay during the winter.

Third: Water from the Cuyamaca System can be delivered into the City at an elevation of approximately 500 feet, giving abundant pressure, and eliminating the present expensive pumping system for the higher levels within the city limits. The City is now furnishing the higher levels by pumping the water from University Heights reservoir into high tanks, at a considerable additional cost. This expense can be eliminated.

Fourth: The Cuyamaca System can be fully developed, and water delivered into University Heights reservoir at a cost of approximately 10 cents a thousand gallons, as against the present cost of the city water, which is 22 cents per thousand gallons delivered into University Heights reservoir, as testified to by City Hydraulic Engineer, Mr. Earle, at the Railroad Commission hearing on June 2d, 1921. The price of 10 cents includes the total cost of re-building the Cuyamaca System and the two dams above mentioned.

Fifth: By acquiring the Cuyamaca System, the water from Murray dam will furnish over 200 pounds pressure for fire service, which would be available in the business

district by gravity in time of need.

Sixth: The present consumers of the Cuyamaca System are an asset, inasmuch as they are now much more than carrying the total maintenance and operation expense of the entire Cuyamaca System, owing to the increased rates which went into effect October 15, 1920.

Seventh: The Cuyamaca System can be fully developed, by units, covering a period of 10 years, without any immediate heavy bond issue.

Eighth: The Sutherland development can be carried on in the same manner, by building the pipe line, and later on the Sutherland dam.

Ninth: The power development (900 ft. power drop) at the Fletcher site from the Sutherland water, and the 1,000 foot power drop from the Cuyamaca water out of Boulder Creek, could be utilized by the City at various points such as pumping from the Monte, Mission Valley, or sold to the Gas Company. Personally I prefer to see the Gas Company develop the power, and pay for same at rates established by the State Railroad Commission, the revenue to go to the City.

Tenth: The Murray reservoir, with a capacity in excess of 2 billion gallons, is within 8 miles of University Heights reservoir, and for \$40,000 or \$50,000 its capacity can be increased to 3 billion gallons, or more, nearly a year's supply.

Eleventh: The Cuyamaca flume can be replaced by permanent concrete construction, the Fletcher and South Fork dams built, all for less cost than the cost of the transmission line alone from El Capitan dam to the city.

Twelfth: The City's service is roughly divided into three service areas. Murray dam can, without pumping, supply the high service, eliminating the pumping expense that the City goes to to supply the high service within the city limits. The city's Bonita pipe line can furnish the intermediate service, and the Mission Gorge dam, proposed, the low service.

Thirteenth: The terms upon which the Cuyamaca System may be acquired and the amount of money required for its ultimate development, considering that the present consumers are paying much in excess of all maintenance and operation charges, will enable the City within a comparatively short term of years to pay the entire cost of the

System out of the savings in the cost of water, based on the present cost of 22 cents per thousand gallons, of the city's water.

Fourteenth: The Cuyamaca Company owns all of the riparian rights, including pumping rights below the El Monte pumping plant to and including the town of Lakeside, lands that would be affected by extremely heavy pumping from El Monte gravels. The San Vicente Creek, which includes the Witch Creek-Ramona-Foster's section, debouches into the San Diego River below Lakeside and furnishes sufficient underground supply of water to take care of the riparian owners below. We feel sure no damage would accrue by pumping continuously from the El Monte gravels.

Senate Bill No. 3646, being an Act granting to the City of San Diego certain lands within the Capitan Grande Indian Reservation, provides that the City must supply the riparian owners below if El Capitan is built. The building of El Capitan dam vitally affects the El Monte gravels, as well as the other rights of the Cuyamaca Company on the San Diego River. I enclose a copy of Senate Bill No. 3646, which shows that the city must recognize our rights and cannot take them away from us without due process of law. If the City proceeds with El Capitan at the end of a very bitter fight it would pay very dearly for its El Capitan damsite and the damages it would do the Cuyamaca System. It is this controversy I wish to avoid, if possible.

This letter is written as a citizen of San Diego, presenting the case as I see it, and I am writing this letter as an individual only. It is my desire to cooperate with you and your administration in every way.

I shall be glad to furnish any further information possible, and the object of this letter is simply to furnish you with the facts as I see them, and for your consideration, knowing that you are working only for the city's best interests.

Yours very sincerely,

EF:KLM

*E. Fletcher*



130-5

August 6, 1923.

Mayor John L. Bacon,  
City of San Diego,  
California.

My dear Mayor:

Enclosed find copy of Mr. Higgins' letter of August 2d, copy of my letter in reply and copy of a letter I have written the attorney for the State Railroad Commission, all of which is explanatory, and for your information.

I am simply trying to clear up what I think is a misinterpretation of the law as to the original contracts, and I feel sure you are interested in getting this matter clearly settled in your own minds.

Yours sincerely,

EF:KLM

SEYMOUR & SEYMOUR  
UNION BLDG., SAN DIEGO, CAL.

1 MEETING OF CITIZENS CALLED AT INSTANCE OF  
2 MAYOR JOHN L. BACON TO CONSIDER THE WATER  
3 SITUATION OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO, HELD  
4 JUNE 10, 1924, IN THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

5 -:-:-:-

6 THE MAYOR: I want to explain first, the object of  
7 calling this meeting. It was not with the intention of  
8 entering into a lengthy discussion of the water question.  
9 In asking these men to come here I will take the respon-  
10 sibility for those who were asked to come; there was no  
11 particular object in picking out any particular group of men  
12 except this, I tried to ask the men who are the head of  
13 various organizations here in the City, a representative  
14 of each one of the larger banks and men who have given con-  
15 siderable thought to civic affairs regardless of what their  
16 opinions have been, (and I think if you will look around the  
17 crowd here you will agree with me on that), and that I have  
18 picked men who are not necessarily friendly to me politically  
19 personally and I did it purposely.

20 Here is the idea. The water situation in San Diego is  
21 the most serious question which we have with us today. I am  
22 going to give you as an illustration of this some figures.  
23 These are not for argument's sake, but simply to show you  
24 what the actual conditions are that exist. We had in  
25 storage June 1st of this year, 37,424,000,000 gallons of  
26 water. Of course the billions are the significant figure.

1 The decrease during the month of May was 808,000,000 gallons;  
2 approximately a billion gallons. Oh well, you would say, if  
3 we base it on last month's figures only there would be  
4 37 months' supply available, but that is not a fair way to  
5 figure it. Our decrease from last year, from June 1, 1923  
6 to June 1, 1924 was approximately five and a quarter billion  
7 gallons. On that basis we have in storage about six years'  
8 supply of water, or 72 months, and that is not a fair way to  
9 figure it either.

10 We have known that at one time in San Diego's history we  
11 had over seven ~~dry~~ years of drought, really nine dry years;  
12 we may at some time in the future have to face that situation  
13 again, and it is to guard against any drought or water short-  
14 age that we must plan, and we must realize those basic facts.  
15 My idea in calling this group of representative citizens  
16 together was this, to formulate some method of action, not  
17 to consider a specific project or a specific piece of work,  
18 but to formulate a method of action that will bring out the  
19 facts, and not propaganda in connection with the water system,  
20 for your own information and for the information of the  
21 citizens at large. We must have water; you recognize that  
22 without water our land here is absolutely worthless; with it  
23 it is almost priceless, that is if the water can be obtained  
24 at any reasonable cost. We face much the same problem we  
25 had in connection with the development of our harbor, and we  
26 called together a committee much of this type and got the

1 facts and our difficulties seemed to melt away the minute  
2 we got these facts. The result is that a logical, reason-  
3 able method of development of our harbor is under way which  
4 spells prosperity for us. We have not gone on as far as we  
5 wish to or as far as we hope to get, but it is a start in  
6 the right direction. I think every citizen is behind it.

7 Our water question is not a question of the city alone;  
8 La Mesa, El Cajon and these agricultural districts in our  
9 back country must be considered if we are to reach any  
10 rational scheme of development. We can say what we want to  
11 about the paramount rights of the City of San Diego but when  
12 it comes down to the last analysis I don't believe any citizen  
13 of San Diego wants to see the City of La Mesa wiped out be-  
14 cause they have no water (applause). I think everybody  
15 recognizes that fact; certainly those of the City Govern-  
16 ment who are giving the thing serious consideration recog-  
17 nize those grounds and recognize it as being reasonable.  
18 That being the case there must be some logical method of  
19 development that is going to take care of this serious  
20 problem.

21 We have employed engineers to give us advice or give  
22 us reports; we may or may not wish to accept those reports,  
23 I am not arguing for any particular report or project.  
24 There is a project up before the people now. You should  
25 have the facts and the most difficult problem for any public  
26 official today who is conscientiously interested in the

1 development of the city is getting the real facts before  
2 the people, not some one man's opinion or propaganda, but  
3 the facts, and they are hard to get before the people.  
4 Now that was the idea of getting this committee together.  
5 Our water situation is extremely complicated. Mr.  
6 Freeman said when he was here that it was the most difficult  
7 problem he has ever tackled in water development in his whole  
8 career, and he has tackled probably some of the most serious  
9 water problems in this country ranging from the New York  
10 City water supply down to Panama Canal, the Hetch-Hetchy,  
11 and so forth.

12 Now this is interesting, but it offers no solution. I  
13 have had in mind what I believe will be a logical method of  
14 procedure, I think/<sup>first of all</sup>to help the problem ~~is~~to determine the  
15 facts . That is what we are interested in and I am giving  
16 every one of you credit with wanting to see San Diego go  
17 ahead. I see a number of bankers in the audience. Is  
18 there one singlebanker here that would advise his bank to  
19 proceed and make an investment of the magnitude of this  
20 water situation on the information which he has now/? I  
21 do not believe there is. He would go into it most carefully.  
22 He would investigate it most thoroughly and get the facts as  
23 closely as he could get them; and it was with that idea that  
24 this group of men and women were called together.

25 Here is the method of procedure. I think first of all  
26

1 we should have appointed from this group here, or go out-  
2 side of the group if necessary, a small committee that  
3 would examine all of the reports and all of the facts as far  
4 as they can that have come up in connection with the water  
5 question, hear every person, as far as they can and consider  
6 every question as far as they can, that has been raised.  
7 This small committee a "Fact-Finding Committee" if you  
8 want to use that term, would be much the same sort of  
9 committee that has been formed in the U.S. Government for  
10 determining the facts in the Reclamation Service . This  
11 committee would digest as far as possible reports and inform-  
12 ation regarding the water development and then submit to this  
13 larger group for discussion such facts as they found.

14 Just to show you the magnitude of the proposition there  
15 is the Freeman report. I have in here ten or fifteen pages  
16 of notes that I have made and outside of those there are  
17 200 pages there and there are some 75 to 80 sheets of draw-  
18 ings. This report is divided into various sections, Mr.  
19 Freeman's summation and his own report takes up ever 20  
20 pages; then he has various appendices giving the facts on  
21 which he bases his conclusions. You can take any page out  
22 of that report and prove anything I want to prove. It is  
23 like a man taking things out of the Bible. He can take the  
24 phrase "there is no God" and according to that prove there is  
25 no God, but he has only taken a part of that phrase; if he  
26 takes the rest of the phrase, "The fool hath said in his



1 heart there is no God," then he has an entirely different  
2 angle from which to argue and the whole facts.

3 To that "Fact-Finding Committee" I would suggest that  
4 there be submitted any question which comes up in the mind  
5 of anyone here or anyone else and as far as possible this  
6 committee dig out the facts to answer that question. I  
7 believe that will shorten the discussion and will tend to bring  
8 out the various phases of this question which otherwise might  
9 not be considered. I would suggest this method of procedure.  
10 I should like to have, I believe it would be the easy way in  
11 order that everything would be checked up, that every one  
12 here submit certain questions which they must have in their  
13 minds. If those questions are submitted to me I will see  
14 that they are typewritten, a copy turned over to the com-  
15 mittee, an acknowledgment sent back to the people from whom  
16 the questions came, a list of the questions made up and kept  
17 in a convenient place open to the inspection of the public,  
18 so they can check up on every question asked the committee.  
19 The Committee then will have a copy of the questions, I will  
20 have a copy of the questions and there will be a copy of the  
21 questions open for public inspection at any time, and in that  
22 way you will see every phase of the question is covered.

23 San Diego faces the most serious question today. Water  
24 is our very life; without it we cannot exist for 24 hours.  
25 Cut off our water supply and we are absolutely gone. There  
26

1 are some of you here who have seen barley growing on the  
2 bed of the Cuyamaca reservoir, and crops raised in the bed  
3 of the Sweetwater reservoir. We do not want to see that  
4 hour again.

5 Now that in brief was why this group was called  
6 together. I think it would be out of place to discuss  
7 any particular phase of the water question this morning.  
8 I think all of us would like the information here, we want  
9 the information to discuss this question logically. I think  
10 we will all agree and meet on that common ground. When a  
11 disagreement arises regarding anything I like to start out  
12 on the things that we agree on and build up from that some  
13 structure with some reasonable stability. If a group of  
14 men get together and start out discussing on things they  
15 disagree on you seldom arrive anywhere but when you start  
16 in with the things you agree on it generally is not very  
17 difficult to straighten out these matters on which there is  
18 a disagreement.

19 That is about all I have to say; I think the lawyer's  
20 term is "Further deponent saith not". That is the sugges-  
21 tion I have to offer in connection with this and I am sub-  
22 mitting it to you for your consideration and should be glad  
23 to hear any expressions. (Applause).  
24  
25  
26

April 10, 1925.

Mayor John L. Bacon,  
San Diego, California.

My dear Mayor:

Enclosed find statement of the water situation which is explanatory, and confidential.

I am giving this to you personally for your own information, as I see it, and would like to hear from you if you have not interpreted the situation as I have.

The fact of the matter is, with the approval of the Railroad Commission of our application of sale to the district, as per our original option, we are giving up a certainty in the matter of building Fletcher dam for an uncertainty, which alone damages our property, 1,000 or 1200 acres above the shores of the lake, at least \$100,000 profit that we otherwise would make.

In addition, we have given up to the city, without any compensation, the hunting, fishing and boating rights on Cuyamaca and El Capitan Lakes, which the district has agreed to give us, and which the city is refusing to give us, worth at least \$150,000, as I can easily show you, based on the percentage of increase of the last three years in revenue for hunting, fishing and boating on Cuyamaca and the city's lakes.

Then we gave up another \$25,000 on Mission Gorge No. 3, and the situation has now come to the breaking point and is serious.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

12-8

[from  
BRUNDAGE,  
ST. R.R. CO.]  
cm

Los Angeles, California.  
April 23rd, 1925.

Honorable John L. Bacon, Mayor,  
City of San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Mayor:-

May I call your attention and through you the attention of the City Council of San Diego to what appears to me to be some of the dangers attending delay in submitting to the people of San Diego at an election the proposition agreed to in conference between officials of the City, La Mesa, Lemon Grove and Spring Valley Irrigation District and the Cuyamaca Water Company.

As you are aware the option to purchase given by the Cuyamaca Water Company to the La Mesa, Lemon Grove and Spring Valley Irrigation District will expire on May Seventh. In all of the conferences between officials of the City, officers of the District, the Company and the Commission it had been expected that the people of San Diego would have an opportunity to either approve or disapprove of the proposed settlement at an election to be called before the expiration of the option on May seventh. It is apparent that such an election cannot now be called and held before that date.

The Commission, as you know, has heard the application of the Cuyamaca Water Company to sell its property to the La Mesa, Lemon Grove and Spring Valley Irrigation District. A decision upon this application has not been issued owing to the desire of the Commission to give to the people of San Diego full and free opportunity to express their views upon the proposed settlement. However, if no action is taken by the Commission upon this proposed transfer of property from the water company to the district until after the expiration of the option to purchase there is some danger that the proposed settlement cannot be carried out.

Mayor John L. Bacon, San Diego, #2.

Unless the Caymanca Water Company will extend the time for purchase by the district for a reasonable time until an election can be held all of the plans hitherto agreed upon for a settlement of the controversy may end in failure.

I am today addressing a letter to Col. Ed Fletcher requesting that he extend the time of the option for the La Mesa, Lemon Grove and Spring Valley Irrigation District until June fifteenth. If Col. Fletcher will agree to such an extension of time it seems to me that this would be a reasonable length of time in which an election could be held and the people of San Diego to approve or disapprove the proposed settlement.

*BC Indent*

In conclusion, while we do not desire to interfere in matters which we recognize must be settled solely by the people of San Diego, may I express a hope that the proposition, as outlined by the Commission and as agreed to by all parties concerned as a fair settlement of this long controversy, may be submitted to the people of San Diego for their determination without involving at this particular time any matters affecting bond issues.

I feel that I cannot too strongly urge upon you and the members of the council the paramount importance of the proposed settlement from the standpoint of the interests of the people of San Diego and surrounding districts.

I am enclosing herewith copies of letters addressed to Col. Ed Fletcher and Mr. H. A. Hall.

Yours very truly,

RAILROAD COMMISSION STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

By

*H. W. Brundage*

President.

Atts.  
HWD/PC

Water History

June 23, 1925.

Mayor John L. Bacon,  
San Diego, California.

My dear John:

I am writing you this personal letter, in no way official, calling your attention to the situation as I see it.

City Manager Rhodes suggested a plan of compromise defining what was a reasonable water supply both for the District and the City on the San Diego River, as outlined in the agreement with the Railroad Commission of California, all parties concurring.

State Engineer McClure came down, had conferences with you and City Manager Rhodes, went out to La Mesa, held a meeting with the La Mesa Irrigation District directors, secured their authority and consent to effect the compromise as suggested by Mr. Rhodes, and Mr. McClure, and wrote you a letter to that effect.

This is the information that I have received personally from Mr. McClure. I am aware that you made one or two attempts to get the City Council together, but the fact remains that you have never made public Mr. McClure's letter of acceptance of Mr. Rhodes' plan, and sooner or later it is going to reflect on you. Instead of making the letter public, you allowed matters to drift until the litigation started again in Santa Ana at a tremendous expense both to the City, the District and ourselves.

As I see it, either one of two things has happened. You have either changed your mind regarding the going ahead with the compromise and have joined the forces of reaction in violation of the San Francisco agreement of the Railroad Commission, or you have unwittingly put yourself in a position later on to be criticized when the public do find out that you have not made public the state engineer's letter and informed them that the La Mesa Irrigation District and the state engineer were in complete accord with the city manager's plan of the division of the waters of the river, which was the only bone of contention not settled.

I am writing this letter as a friend to a friend and believe that even at this late date you should make that letter of Mr. McClure's public for your own protection.

With kind personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

EF:AH

**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 1 Folder: 24**

**General Correspondence - Bacon, John L.**



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