

The cost, in any event, of bringing water from the Colorado River in  
the case of no water which way it comes, that it is foolish to consider  
using the Colorado River water on account of its exorbitant cost and  
the quality only in the time of greatest emergency.

For years I have been preaching how ridiculous it is that San Diego  
has not been developing its local resources instead of looking for  
expensive water from the ocean as at present. Everybody has been  
looking to the Colorado River for relief, ignoring the complete de-  
velopment of our local supply.

September 12, 1944

I earnestly urge you to read exhibits "A", "B" and "C", herewith en-  
closed, an official report of the San Diego Bureau of Municipal  
Research, showing the Metropolitan Water District for one year in  
operation alone, has lost \$3,000,000. The cost of water sold to the  
District to member cities was \$25,000,000 per year, or \$1.65 a gallon.  
and during 1943, while the cost of water to the city of San Diego  
by the city of San Diego to date from the Metropolitan Water Dis-  
trict is approximately 35% a gallon, the Metropolitan Water Dis-  
trict is selling water to the city of San Diego at a rate of 1.50 a  
gallon, while the water can be developed for 1.25 to 1.35 a gallon, while the water  
can be developed at our Mission Gorge 75% a gallon, or 1.125 a gallon.

**Mayor Harley Knox,  
City of San Diego  
Civic Center  
San Diego, California**

**My dear Mayors:**

Enclosed find copy of letter I wrote Mr. Samuel B. Morris on  
August 14th and the following is a copy of his letter of Septem-  
ber 5th to me:

**Dear Senator Fletcher:**

Your very interesting narrative of August 14 just arrived to-  
day, September 5. It largely confirms the oral statements  
made to Mr. Cooper and me on July 18. Whatever may be said  
about some early City administrators I believe all will agree  
that the City now has splendid management.

The growth of San Diego has been so rapid that its present  
annual water use is 46 million gallons per day or nearly 20  
million gallons per day above the safe yield of present sup-  
plies (pending the major filling of San Vicente reservoir).

The construction of a connection with the Colorado River is  
imperative and should be completed within two years of this  
date or there is danger of dry years causing water shortages  
in San Diego.

Following construction of such Colorado River connection San  
Diego should construct such additions to its local water sup-  
ply as will result in lowered cost of water. Finally, I ex-  
pect the growth of San Diego and neighboring communities to  
be such as to require the maximum development of local water  
supplies in addition to the Colorado River supply.

Sincerely,

**SAMUEL B. MORRIS**

Our quickest and best response to the question of water  
supply should be made first. If we can get \$20,000,000 for the  
purpose of the money necessary to get the State Engineer's report on the

Mayor Knox—#2

The cost, in any event, of bringing water from the Colorado River is so great, no matter which way it comes, that it is foolish to consider using the Colorado River water on account of its exorbitant cost and its quality only in the time of greatest emergency.

For years I have been preaching how ridiculous it is that San Diego has not been developing its local resources instead of letting the surplus water run into the ocean as it present. Everybody has been looking to the Colorado River for relief, ignoring the complete development of our local supply.

I earnestly urge you to read exhibits "A", "B" and "C", herewith enclosed, an official document of the Los Angeles Bureau of Municipal Research, showing the Metropolitan Water District for one year in operation alone, has lost \$3,000,000. The cost of water sold by the District to member cities was \$536.23 per acre foot, or \$1.65 a thousand gallons, last year, while the cost of all stored water developed by the city of San Diego to date from its present system, delivered to the city limits is approximately 35¢ a thousand gallons. The balance of the water in the San Diego watershed that can be conserved, can be developed for 15¢ to 18¢ a thousand gallons, while the water that can be conserved at our Mission Gorge #3, in excess of four million gallons daily, can be developed for 10¢ or 12¢ a thousand gallons—

delivered to the city limits. I have been urging, publicly and privately for years that the State of California make investigations and recommendations as to net safe yield and costs of construction and where the best water can be obtained—that we may have the advantage of the best engineers in California and make it possible for us to get financial aid from the State to complete San Diego County water development. My one regret is the lack of cooperation from the city of San Diego in the past. We should be borrowing and begging every dollar we could get with the last few years in the building of dams in this county. San Diego County has been blessed with having the heaviest rainfall the last eleven years that it has had in the last 50 or 60 years and you can count on it any more.

This letter is not for publication. It is only sent in the most friendly spirit. I am sending a copy of it to each member of the City Council, to Mr. Cooper and Mr. Pyle. My desire is to serve San Diego.

Realizing the situation was serious, six weeks ago I wrote a letter to the Governor urging him to take \$10,000 out of his special fund immediately to be matched by San Diego money—this money to be used for investigations of our water supply by the State Engineer so that we could at least get something done and a report in by the first of January, if possible, with the idea of asking State financial aid to help solve San Diego's local water problem.

Our quickest and best results will come from the completion of Sutherland Dam. I feel the San Diego river study should be made first. If we can get \$20,000 now we will have no trouble in getting the balance of the money necessary to get the State Engineer's report on the

Mayor Knox—#3

development of the balance of the San Diego River supply, including Barrett and Marone damsites.

At least let's get quickly these reports out by State authorities and if they meet the city's approval we can all join together in going after substantial State aid on each stream.

My one desire is to be of service and cooperate with the city officials. My one regret is that the Governor vetoed my Senate Bill 51—his main objection was the inclusion of the word "construction" in the bill—put there not by me, but the bill was prepared by the Legislative Counsel and the attorney for the State Engineer's office. I introduced and passed the bill as it was given me. The Governor is sympathetic; wants to help us; and I can appreciate his point of view in vetoing the bill. It was all done in a couple of days—introduced and passed—without the Bill having first been approved by the Governor; is the reason for the veto. But I assumed that any bill prepared by the Legislative Counsel and the attorney for the State Engineer would be satisfactory to him.

I repeat, I do not care for any publicity in connection with this letter. I have for so many years been criticized that it is a matter of self-interest—all I can say it is most unfortunate and at all times in the last 35 years anything we had that the city wanted we have always been ready to leave it to arbitration if we could not agree, without the necessity of condemnation. Anything we own in the County I am sure the Ed Fletcher Company will arbitrate as to value if the city wants it, as and when. The different properties we have are all owned by the Ed Fletcher Company—the children own the stock—I am not even a stockholder.

My hope is that you will take this letter in the spirit that it is written and, I repeat, my desire to be of service to the city and the community.

My one request is that you give the time and read carefully the letters and exhibits.

At your service.

Very sincerely yours,

PS: I recommend completion of Sutherland first with a large pipeline taking the surplus water into San Vicente, with an extension off the San Vicente line to San Clemente damsite in Camp Elliott. It will take only a small pipeline as there is a difference of 1200 feet in elevation

Mayor Knox—#4

between Sutherland Dam and San Clemente. 2A Million and a quarter to a million and a half dollars will complete the pipeline above mentioned, eliminating the necessity of pumping water to Camp Elliott and Miramar and supplying all of Miramar, Elliott and Linda Vista City, as well as put water direct into the San Diego city mains by connecting up with the pipeline recently built to the so-called Oliver Reservoir in San Clemente Reservoir site.

It is only approximately 20 miles across the Ramona valley and generally following the new paved highway from Sutherland to San Clemente and for 10 or 12 miles the large pipeline to San Vicente could be used for the San Clemente water.

I think this plan has possibilities and it should be looked into.



## THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

January 29, 1951

HARLEY E. KNOX  
MAYOR

Col. Ed Fletcher  
Ed Fletcher Company  
1020 9th Avenue  
San Diego 1, California

Dear Senator Ed,

Thanks so much for your kind note of December 29th. You have always been more than kind to me in your remarks and Bess and I have counted you and Mary among our most greatly admired friends.

The boys tell me that your health remains good, which is fine news. Stay that way, because the Fletcher family is a fixture in San Diego and a vital part of the San Diego Story. You, of course, have made an indelible impression on San Diego and have contributed more than any other citizen to its development.

Bess joins me in kindest regards to both of you.

Cordially and sincerely,

*Harley*  
Harley E. Knox, Mayor  
THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

K/j

a girl Diamond & Prayer

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**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 15 Folder: 16**

**General Correspondence - Knox, Harley**



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