

CONVERSATION BETWEEN A. MAYRHOFFER AND MR.

DOWELL OF THE LABOR LEADER - April 18, 1924.

Mr. Mayrhofer: Hello, Dowell?

Mr. Dowell: Yes.

Mayrhofer: How are you?

Dowell: "all right, us young fellows, you know.

M: I want to ask you, did I understand you right - that yesterday you saw that report of Freeman's at Bacon's office?

D: Telegraphic report, yes -2080 words or something like that.

M: That's the one he said had been received sometime ago?

D: Yes, but they only said a "slight" report.

M: How long has it been here?

D: Came the week after Bacon left for Washington.

M: What did it recommend?

D: It recommended the building of a dam at San Vicente, then Mission Gorge No. 3 -

M: Did it say anything about El Capitan?

D: El Capitan would be impossible under the present conditions. Would be impracticable financially.

M: On account of the expense attached to it?

D: Yes - the limited bonding capacity of the city.

M: Which did he recommend first?

D: San Vietnte

M: Then Mission Gorge No. 3?

D: Yes.

M: But ~~###~~ El Capitan on account of the tremendous expense and limited bonding margin

D: (finishing sentence) Not to be attempted until the others are taken care of first.

M: That is what I wanted to know. I understood you right then.

Say Dowell, I don't think Kelly is going - so you will be going up to that convention with me, etc.

Dowell: I think if you went over to see Bacon he would show it to you.

M: He might show it to some, but not me.

D: I think he would show it to you. You go over and tell him I was telling you some very interesting things about the report and he will let you see it.

M: - All right -- I'll see you this afternoon.

6-10-24

TO THE TAXPAYERS OF SAN DIEGO CITY:

I was very much interested in the arguments favorable to Mission Gorge No. 2 presented by our worthy Mayor, Sunday night at the Open Forum.

The key to the whole situation is what type of dam is to be built at No. 3. Savage and Freeman of the old school insist upon a gravity arch, or earth fill dam, and Mr. Freeman's estimate for same is nearly \$5,000,000. That puts Mission Gorge No. 3 out of the running from the start, and in my opinion, as was intended by both Freeman and Savage.

Notwithstanding the fact that the U. S. Government has built the highest dam in the world, Shoshone Dam, 305 ft. high for \$515,730.00; while the Pacific Gas & Electric Company built the Lake Spalding dam 275 feet high for \$1,500,000, yet these worthy engineers will not consider a single arch dam in Mission Gorge No. 3, altho it has the best foundation for bedrock of any dam on the river, and bedrock at the deepest point is on the surface, exposed.

A single arch type of dam only 250 ft. high, to the 350 ft. contour, holding 29 billion gallons, flooding only 2880 acres, with over a third of the water stored in the canyon, can be built for \$1,250,000 according to recent bids, and this type of dam is approved by our state authorities.

A single arch dam ^{to the 330 ft. contour} holding 15 billion gallons can be built in Mission Gorge No. 3 for \$780,000, and approved by our state authorities, while a multiple arch type of dam, approved by the state authorities, can be built for approximately 25 percent

less than the above amounts.

A dam at Mission Gorge No. 2 holding 44,500 acre feet floods 2420 acres, while at No. 3 the same amount of water only floods 1424 acres, 40 percent less evaporation area.

A dam at Mission Gorge No. 2 holding 71,500 acre feet floods 3050 acres. The same amount of water stored in No. 3 floods only 2420 acres.

A dam should not be built at No. 2 holding in excess of 87,000 acre feet, or 29 billion gallons, flooding 5320 acres. A dam at site No. 3 holding the same amount floods only 2880 acres. The evaporation loss of the last mentioned dam at No. 2 would be 11 million gallons daily, if full. At No. 3 10 million gallons daily, or a saving of a million gallons daily evaporation loss alone in favor of Mission Gorge No. 3.

The lands that would be flooded in No. 3 can be acquired for full \$1,000,000 less than No. 2; much less valuable land would be damaged if No. 3 were built, the town of Santee would be saved and a million and a half dollars worth of our best bottom lands would be preserved for taxable purposes if No. 3 were built, but which would be destroyed if the city builds at No. 2.

With Fletcher dam built by the La Mesa District, as it surely will be, the annual average run-off at Mission Gorge No. 3, based on the records of the last 45 years, will be approximately 16,000 acre feet, or a little over 5 billion gallons annually.

It seems ridiculous with our limited means to build a dam at the present time in excess of 15 billion gallons, to the 330 ft. contour at No. 3, letting future generations raise the dam, if

desired and conditions warrant.

A multiple arch dam can be built to the 330 ft. contour, holding 15 billion gallons for \$600,000, or a single arch dam for approximately \$800,000, approved by the state authorities. It is ridiculous for Freeman and Savage to talk of a \$4,000,000 or \$5,000,000 dam at No. 3, a gravity arch type, to which they are wedded.

No. 3 damsite has 12 square miles of watershed more than No. 2. You save nearly 2 miles of pipe line as compared to No. 2 which will cost approximately \$200,000. You save endless litigation and can commence construction at an early date, and can make a compromise with the La Mesa District which owns nearly 400 acres of land within sites No. 2 and No. 3 that would be flooded.

El Capitan is so much more expensive to build and Mission Gorge having the advantage of over 200 additional square miles of watershed as compared to El Capitan, makes preferable, I feel, the immediate construction of Mission Gorge No. 3.

Yours sincerely,

A. V. MAYRHOFER

A. V. Mayrhofer,
San Diego, California.

August 26, 1924.

Editor San Diego Independent:

Mr. John R. Freeman in his report of May 16, 1924, on the extensions of the water supply of the City of San Diego, recommended that on account of the excessive evaporation losses, Cuyamaca Dam should be destroyed at once and the water from this area conserved somewhere below. But the main conclusion and his most earnest recommendation in the same report is in favor of Mission Gorge Res'r No. 2, which, next to Cuyamaca, is the most extravagant reservoir for evaporation losses in the county. Mr. Freeman says of No. 2: "Its reservoir floodage is unfortunately shallow, particularly at the upper end, causing large evaporation waste, and a considerable amount of good farm land would be flooded by this reservoir and put out of use."

The building of the San Vicente dam has no bearing whatever on the reduction of the evaporation losses from Mission Gorge No. 2, yet one is led to believe that Mr. Freeman strongly recommended the San Vicente Res'r so as to offset the evaporation losses from Gorge No. 2. Such economy is in line with the Missouri farmer who carried his bag of corn to mill with a stone in the other half of the bag on the opposite side of the horse as a counterbalance - the larger the bag of corn the heavier the stone.

In speaking of the future growth of the city of San Diego, Mr. Freeman says in his report: "I never before have seen so serious a case of future limitation by lack of water. The total amount of water that can be had from present sources and from the San Diego River by utmost conservation of rainfall, flood discharge, and by a transfer later of storage to reservoirs of smallest evaporation, surely is inadequate for the probable future of San Diego." No one doubts the truth of this statement. And yet he recommends that we build a dam at Mission Gorge No. 2 that will yield only 75% of the Gorge No. 3 development. In other words, by following his costly expert advice, the city's future growth would face greater limitations than ever. His No. 2 reservoir, according not only to his own estimate, but also to that of Mr. Savage and others, will yield two million gallons daily less than Gorge No. 3, or sufficient water to care for a population of 20,000 people. Water is too vital a matter to be thus so carelessly wasted. 20,000 people moving out of the city on account of the lack of water would leave a lot of empty houses behind. We certainly must conserve every available drop of water - it does not require safe yield estimates to prove this - the last two dry years are sufficient evidence. This summer's drought has run the daily consumption from 13 million gallons up to 17 million gallons, necessitating the pumping from Mission Valley of 14 million gallons daily on account of the under capacity of the Otay pipe line. And the chances are that the coming winter will also be a dry one - this is not a guess but is an indication from many present conditions and past records. Why, then, throw away water for 20,000 people when we know that during these inevitable drought periods our consumption increases 40% without any material replenishment to the reservoirs? The history of this county since the days of Father Serra has been one of dry years with a consequent setback

July 8,
1924.

Mr. Claus Spreckles,
Union Building,
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Spreckles:

It being impossible to see you on account of my leaving the city, I am taking this means to acquaint you with what happened while you were away regarding Mr. E. H. Dowell and the water problem.

Last week I was fortunate in having Mr. Dowell and Colonel Fletcher in a conference. The Colonel clearly explained the only doubt that was in Mr. Dowell's mind, "Storage". The Colonel also wrote him a letter to guide him regarding same.

Yesterday I met Dowell and he told me of a meeting of the Mayor's water committee that had been suddenly called by Mayor Bacon. Jack Thompson and A. P. Johnson could not attend. It was meant that way. They tried, as Dowell said to strong arm him. All present except Dowell were in favor of Site #2, and therefore tried to bring Dowell to the same point of view. He listened to their arguments and when he was asked to state his opinion, he explained that while Savage and Freeman made a wonderful report, they did not give Site #3, a fair consideration. He told the committee that he had information which clearly showed him Site #3 has the storage capacity of Site #2 and could be developed for much less. Also that the valuable lands flooded would be nil compared to Site #2. He told them that unless he could be shown otherwise, he was for Site #3 and the plan of water development we advocate.

On My return to the city August 1st, I will call upon you for the signs we spoke of and will be ready to post them in conspicuous places on the highway between El Cajon, Santee and Lakeside.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

I am,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) A. V. Mayrhofer.

As Jack Thompson
- M. White

succeeding wet and prosperous years. Therefore, to foolishly waste a part of our limited water supply is ~~an~~excusable.

The attached tabulation shows that for economy of operation, that is, for smallest loss from evaporation, next to El Capitan, Mission Gorge No. 3 stands at the head of the list. The economy of operation rests on two factors, storage capacity and area flooded, and is represented by the mean depth, which is obtained by dividing the capacity by the area. That is, if the 90,000 acre feet contained in El Capitan when full were placed in a reservoir with vertical sides and a level bottom covering 1840 acres, the water would be 48.9 feet deep throughout the reservoir.

On account of our long dry summers no reservoir in this county remains full longer than two or three months, and it is to be noted that in the case of the flat shallow reservoirs like Cuyamaca, Henshaw and Gorge No. 2, their economy of operation materially decreases with the amount of water in storage, while Gorge No. 3 and El Capitan show a good increase in economy. When one half filled the Gorge No. 2 reservoir would have almost twice as much water surface exposed for evaporation as No. 3, with a consequent greater loss of over four million gallons daily. This complete loss of four million gallons daily represents the water supply for 40,000 people. The question arises, are we building additional reservoirs for evaporation results or for increasing our population by 40,000? In other words, during dry critical periods when we would be drawing down our reservoirs to the limit, the Gorge No. 3 reservoir would be constantly increasing its efficiency on account of its increasing mean depth, while on the other hand No. 2 would become less and less efficient through a decreasing mean depth. That is to say, No. 3 will pay an increasing rate on the money invested, while No. 2 will pay with a decreasing rate. Stock in No. 3, therefore, would always be above par, while that in No. 2 would be below par.

Mission Gorge No. 2, built to elevation 365 as recommended by Mr. Freeman, and storing 105,000 acre feet, would back the water up the San Diego River to Riverview and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles up the El Cajon Valley, with the village of Santee from one to five feet under water. Gorge No. 3 reservoir, built to the 352 elevation and storing 90,000 ac. ft., would back the water up the river one mile less and its flow line would be 1500 ft. from the village of Santee. The widest point in each reservoir would be about one mile west of Santee, where No. 2 would flatten out to a width of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles and No. 3 to one mile. No. 2 would cover in this shallow upper end one whole square mile more area than No. 3. The evaporation losses from the warm shallow water in this square mile would be far greater than the losses from the cool deep water above Gorge No. 3, and the losses from plant growth would also be enormous, as the alluvial soil underlying this shallow water would become a hotbed for aquatic growths of all kinds. In shallow reservoirs the growth of grass and weeds becomes so thick that it is difficult to row a boat through it. Each stem and leaf of this growth is an evaporation wick into the atmosphere. Gorge No. 2 reservoir would cause the city to support unnecessarily a whole square mile of this growth.

is the height of dam, which would be 137 feet higher than No. 2 for the same storage. Engineers O'Shaughnessy, Jorgeson and

Eastwood, besides different contractors, say that the high dam at No. 3 site is just as practicable as the lower dam at No. 2 site. It is simply a matter of foresight to spend a little more money on the dam and have more water for future use, rather than to economize on a cheaper dam with a shallow reservoir and discover the mistake during the first drought when the water we thought was being stored for consumption was evaporating into the air. The smaller reservoir area contained in No. 3, however, and the flooding of much cheaper land, would more than offset the additional cost of the dam. #####

Sincerely yours

Amway Hofer

VOTE no on bond issue Sept. 10th in favor of Site No 2, Mission Gorge. Vote no on any compromise that may be offered to build a dam on this site.

*Scopia
made by
Mayhofer*

It is interesting to see with what complacency the city proposes to vote bonds to build El Capitan dam. The city is due for a rude shock unless they effect a compromise with the La Mesa Irrigation District.

Do the voters know that the El Capitan damsite and a considerable portion of the lands that will be flooded have been sold to the La Mesa Irrigation District? Subject to a ratification by the electors of the La Mesa Irrigation District at an election to be held sometime this month *the 7th of November*

I see Higgins and Cosgrove have given a written opinion that all the city has to do is to walk in and take possession of El Capitan damsite at once, commence construction and put up a bond for damages. They are riding before a fall.

The water company and its successor, the La Mesa Irrigation District, *not alone own the damsite and some lands that* have certain water rights at El Capitan which are backed *up* by the authority of the State of California. To my certain knowledge *be* there will be 5 lawsuits started the day the city makes its first *move* move, and I am reliably informed that the city cannot condemn any *land* property of an irrigation district.

Then again, the law calls for a cash bond, and it can be easily shown that if the city has the right to condemn, the city will have to put up something like a million dollars in cash before they will get possession, for the law distinctly states that no damsite, or lands for that purpose, or water rights, can be condemned and possession taken until the court, the last resort, has made a final determination as to damage. This means six or eight years of litigation as a minimum.

Every move heretofore that the city has made has been one

of antagonism toward the people in the La Mesa section. This territory should be a part of the City of San Diego, but the attitude of the city officials has brought about a condition whereby today not one person in a hundred in that territory would ever think of voting to annex to San Diego.

The La Mesa people mean business. They propose to own their own water supply and not be dictated to by the city. It is about time this bullheaded action of the city council is stopped by the business men of this community and amicable feelings be brought about thru a fair adjustment of the water problems on the San Diego River.

INTERVIEW OF ALBERT V. MAYNHOFER

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VOTERS , ATTENTION !

I have been interested in seeing the San Diego Sun change its attitude, now supporting Mayor Bacon's plan, urging all voters to vote "Yes" on the water bonds next Wednesday, which, if carried, would mean the building of Mission Gorge dam No. 2, an economical crime, for it would flood nearly 4,000 acres of our best valley lands for taxable purposes, and unnecessarily so.

It would mean an evaporation loss into the air of several million gallons of water daily, as compared to the building of El Capitan or Mission Gorge No. 3 dams.

It wipes out the town of Santee and ruins the future of the town of Lakeside.

It would flood 3-1/2 miles of paved highway and 4-1/2 miles of railroad.

IT WOULD BE SAN DIEGO'S MONUMENTAL BLUNDER IN WATER DEVELOPMENT!

The San Diego Sun for years encouraged the construction of Mission Gorge No. 3 and El Capitan from time to time. It now favors No. 2. WHY?

Does the public know that 1350 acres of Mr. Scripps' land would be flooded? Which the city will have to buy?

Do the people know that Mr. Scripps asked \$1,000 an acre for part of his land 19 years ago when the city asked for a price?

Mr. Scripps owns 51% of the Sun. Has that anything to do with the change of attitude of the Sun within the last few days?

I urge my friends to vote "NO" next Wednesday, thereby saving our limited bonding margin until such time as we can all agree on an economical development that will save the waters of Sutherland, El Capitan and Mission Gorge No. 3 for the city of San Diego.

We have 4 or 5 years' supply of water in our city reservoirs. The Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, the Committee of 50 and Special Water Committee of Five, appointed by Mayor Bacon are OPPOSED to these water bonds carrying on Wednesday. Do not make the blunder of voting these bonds now and preventing our taking advantage of a comprehensive plan of water development that can be worked out for the lasting benefit of the whole community.

VOTE "NO".

Inline 9/9/24 a n mayhofer

November 15, 1939

Mr. A.V. Mayrhofer
San Diego City Water Commission
Bank of America
San Diego, California

My dear Mr. Mayrhofer:

Enclosed find copy of letter that is explanatory,
the original being sent to the City Council.

If desired, we will be glad to have a conference
with you in advance of any meeting with the City Council
if you think it is necessary.

Sincerely hoping to have your cooperation,

Sincerely yours,

EF/jv
encl.

January 17, 1940

Mr. A.V. Mayrhofer, Chairman
San Diego Water Commission
Civic Center
San Diego, California

My dear Mr. Mayrhofer:

Enclosed find copy of letter I wrote Fred Pyle
yesterday for your information. Something should be done,
if possible, before I leave for the North next week Wednes-
day.

The Fenton amount looks high, but Fenton never did
receive a dollar originally, he asked \$150,000 for his Ranch,
he never was able to get a lower price than \$125,000, and I
thought I did remarkable work in getting him to sign for
\$25,000 and his consent to build Sutherland Dam. He has
more alfalfa land under irrigation than anyone in the Valley
as I remember it. Mr. Webb told me that everytime Fenton
pumped, it lowered his water across the river from Fenton
very materially.

I do hope you can see your way clear to expedite
matters.

Sincerely yours,

EF/jv

cc-Fred Heilbron
cc-Mr. Anderson 2345 *H. M. H.*
C.M.

January 24, 1940

Mr. Albert V. Mayrhofer
Bank of America
San Diego, California.

My dear Mayrhofer:

Enclosed find copy of letter to Pyle
for your information, but not for publication.
Yours sincerely,

EF M

Not reviewed
after dictation

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CALIFORNIA STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

3551 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
RICHMOND 4111
LOS ANGELES

March 14, 1941

ELECTED OFFICERS
PRESIDENT
ALBERT V. MAYRHOFFER, San Diego
VICE PRESIDENTS
ROY W. CLOUD, San Francisco
GEORGE C. JENSEN, Sacramento
EMORY RATCLIFFE, Fresno
PAUL G. SWEETSER, Santa Barbara

Senator Ed Fletcher
Sacramento
California

Dear Senator:

May I enter a protest to the passing of Assembly Bill
No. 2525, which would mean, if passed, that the statue of
Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo be transferred to the city of Oakland.

My reason is that Cabrillo discovered San Diego on the
28th day of September, 1542, and thereby discovered California
and the west coast of the United States of America. The most
logical place for the statue, because of that event, is
San Diego, the birthplace of California.

Cabrillo never saw Oakland or the harbor of San Francisco.
In all fairness the statue belongs here. Dr. Bianchi, Portuguese
Ambassador to the United States, has expressed himself in favor
of San Diego. Dr. Da Costa, Portuguese council of San Francisco,
recently dedicated the site for the statue on the shore of the
harbor of San Diego, and the head of the Portuguese Society of
California also approved of the site and was present at the
dedication.

Because of all this, may I urge you to use your influence
in killing Assembly Bill No. 2525?

Sincerely
A. V. Mayrhofer, President

AVM/BA
Similar letters sent to Daley, Stream, and Richie, Members of
the Assembly.

Bank of America

NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

SAN DIEGO MAIN OFFICE

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

July 3, 1941.

Senator Ed Fletcher,
San Diego, California.

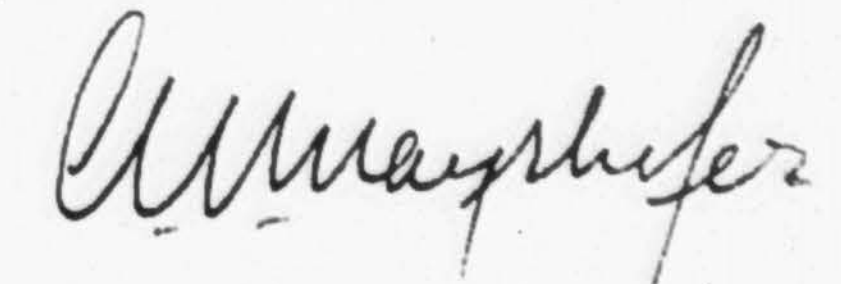
My dear Senator:

This is to acknowledge and to thank you for your letter of June 25. I have carried out your advice on this matter.

May I at this time express the sincere thanks and appreciation of the California State Historical Association, the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, and the San Diego Historical Society for the many, many favors that you extended us during the last session of the legislature. I am sure that when Bishop Buddy learns of your activity on Senate Bill No. 568, he will be more than pleased, and I know he will appreciate your hard work.

With kindest personal regards.

Cordially,



A. V. Mayrhofer,
Assistant Vice President.

AVM:SC

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Form 16

FA23 24 NL=TD SANDIEGO CALIF 14

1941 JUN 15 AM 7 35

SEN ED FLETCHER=

STATE CAPITOL SACRAMENTO CALIF=I

PLEASE ACCEPT THE SINCERE THANKS AND APPRECIATION OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION FOR YOUR SPLENDID WORK IN OUR BEHALF WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL=

ALBERT V MAYRHOFFER PRES.

MAYRHOFFER.

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 17 Folder: 21

General Correspondence - Mayrhofer, A.V.



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