

San Diego, Cal.

M. E. Baker.

Lemon Grove -

To Cuyamaca Water Company, Dr.

916 EIGHTH ST. BET. D AND E

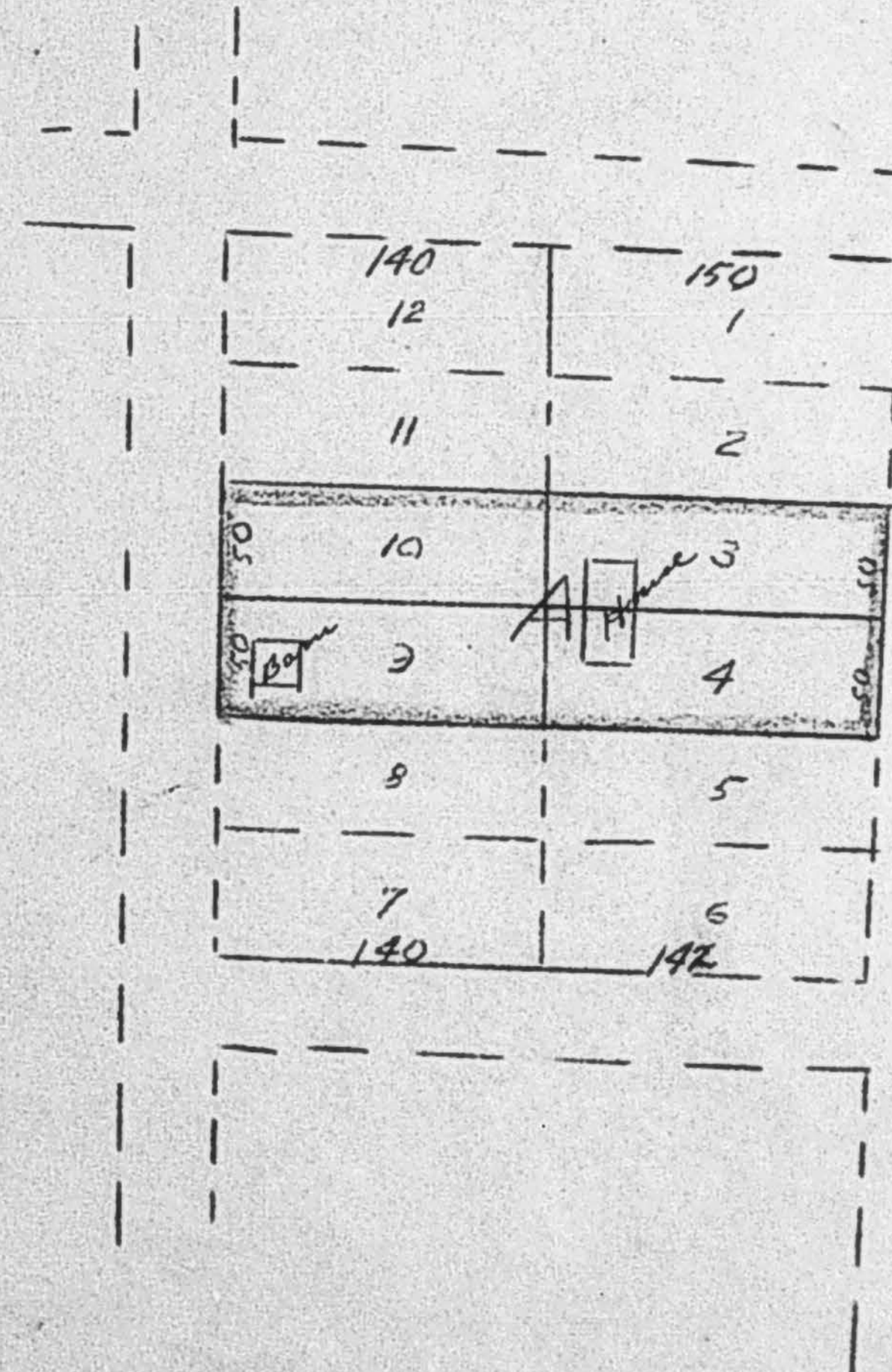
1/40 .025  
28 day mo. 1210  
30 " " 1296  
31 " " 1346  
1/20 .05  
28 day 2419  
30 " 2592  
31 " 2678

ALL DELINQUENT BILLS DRAW EIGHT PER CENT. INTEREST

1914

			clift used	allowd	Excess	charges	Paid
July	Meter Readings	93880 93050	830			25	155
Augt	"	94640 93880	760			25	140
Sept	"	96540 94640	1870	1296	574	25	
Oct	"	98930 96540	2420	1340	1080	30	295

CUYAMACA WATER CO.  
FILE No. 126  
DO NOT REMOVE  
ANY LETTER  
FROM THIS FILE.



above  
28,600 sqft

M. E. Baker  
Lots 3, 4, 9 & 10 Blk A  
Sub 3 Lot 12  
Ro. Ex Mission  
(Allison's Sub)

CUYAMACA WATER CO.  
FILE No. 126  
DO NOT REMOVE  
ANY LETTER  
FROM THIS FILE.



(121)

Lemon Grove Cal May 7th 1914

Cuyamaca Water Co. Gentlemen

I have an Orchard the size being 100 x 295 feet consisting of 44 Orange, 24 Grape fruit, 5 Lemon 4 Peach and 4 Plum trees and a garden patch; I am placed in your (1) class Domestic and am paying 25 cts per thousand gallons for water. Now I want to be placed in your (4) class which in your Book of rates and Rules \$70.00 per miner inch per annum I want  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch, and will pay for this same at that rate annually in advance, If I should use more than the  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch at any time I will pay at rate of 25 cts per thousand gallons for all I use over the  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch Up to the time that you advanced the price of water from 10 cts to 25 cts per thousand gallons. I had a fine garden and was getting a revenue from my Orchard, But since the advance of price to me, I could not afford to cultivate the garden and my Orchard has had hardly water enough to keep them alive, and have received no revenue from it I find to pay dividends in the Lemon Grove Mutual Water Co and pay 25 cts per thousand gallons for water is out of the question and if I had have known <sup>that</sup> I would have been obliged to wait until the present time for cheaper water I would have abandoned the Orchard, Hoping you will consider this matter favorable to me. Looking for a favorable reply  
Yours Truly N E Baker

-Copy-

App. 1231.

San Francisco, August, Fifteenth, 1914.

Niles E. Baker, Esq.,

Lemon Grove, Calif.

Dear Sir:

Receipt of your letter of August 11th is hereby acknowledged. From your statement it appears that the Cuyamaca Water Company has not been at any time justified in demanding payment at the rate of 18-3/4¢ per 100 cubic feet, as under the rules approved by this Commission, water used on an area of over one-half an acre is considered an irrigation use, particularly when used for commercial purposes as in your case.

The Commission's decision in Case 631 that I heard recently in San Diego will be issued within a few days and will, I hope, more clearly and equitably establish rates to be in effect pending a final readjustment upon the application for an establishment of rates of the Cuyamaca Water Co. This application comes up for hearing November 17th.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Alex Gordon  
Commissioner.

RWH.MR

Copy-LMS

93050  
93880  
94640  
June  
July  
Aug 31-

CUYAMACA WATER CO.
FILE No. 126
DO NOT REMOVE ANY LETTER FROM THIS FILE.



Sept. 11, 1914.

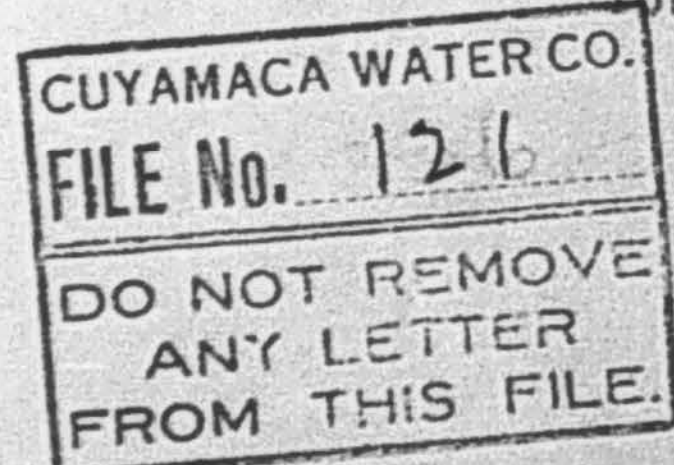
Mr. Miles E. Baker,  
Lemon Grove, Calif.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your request for irrigation water and a \$70 rate, our recollection is that your land never carried a contract for irrigation water and that this company is only obligated to furnish such lands of greater than one-half acre in extent irrigation water as contracted for.

You will note by decision No. 536 dated March 28, 1913, that the Railroad Commission specifically states that no further irrigation water be contracted, and consequently since you have always been rated as a domestic user prior to your present development of fruit trees, it is not our understanding that you have a just claim to irrigation water. Under decision No. 1738, effective July 1, 1914, you will be entitled to a 11.2¢ rate per one hundred cu. ft. and a minimum monthly rate of 75¢.

Yours very truly,



CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY.

Secretary.

Sept. 25, 1914.

Mr. Miles E. Baker,  
Lemon Grove, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

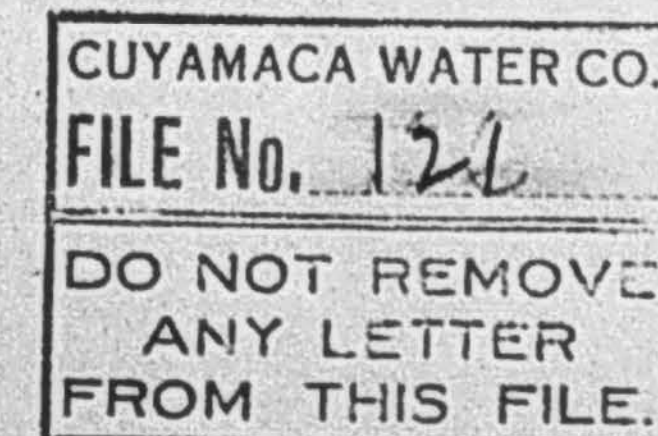
Relative to our conversation of last week, I believe you suggested to me that you wanted 1/8 Miners Inch of water for the use on your place in Block "A" and that after using that amount, you would be willing to pay for water at the domestic rate of 15¢ a thousand gallons. Am I correct in this understanding? Will you kindly write me relative to this?

Yours very truly,

Cuyamaca Water Company.

By T. P. Ellis.

TPE-BK





JOHN M. ESHLEMAN, COMMISSIONER, PRESIDENT  
H. D. LOVELAND, COMMISSIONER  
ALEX GORDON, COMMISSIONER  
EDW. O. EDGERTON, COMMISSIONER  
MAX THELEN, COMMISSIONER, ATTORNEY

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Railroad Commission  
of the  
State of California

TENTH FLOOR, COMMERCIAL BUILDING  
833 MARKET STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO

CHARLES R. DETRICK, SECRETARY  
H. H. SANBORN, RATE EXPERT  
R. SACHSE, ACT. CHIEF ENGINEER  
L. R. REYNOLDS, AUDITOR  
P. A. BINSHEIMER, BOND EXPERT

TELEPHONE—BUTTER 2260

Case 631.

Cuyamaca Water Co.,  
916 Eighth St.,  
San Diego, Calif.,



September,  
Twenty-third,  
1914.

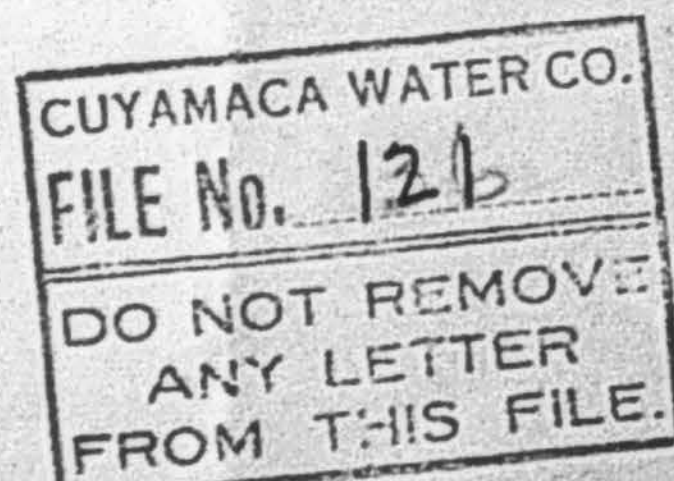
Gentlemen:

The Commission is in receipt of a communication from Niles E. Baker stating that he still required to make payment at the rate of 25¢ per thousand gallons or 18¢ per hundred cu.ft. as heretofore. It is the understanding of the Commission that Mr. Baker owns a plot of ground 100 X 300 feet, containing approximately 7/10 of an acre and that this land is fully occupied by dwelling, garden and orchard, and that the consumer depends in part at least upon this land to produce his living through the sale of fruit and garden crops.

Under the Commission's interpretation of your rules and regulations, this consumer is entitled to an irrigation rate of \$70 per miner's inch per annum, and under the supplementary decision in Case 631 you are constrained to make adjustment of all payments received for water used subsequent to August 27th, 1913 on this basis.

We are unable to find record of this consumer in your exhibits filed in connection with Case 631, and presume that his land appears under the name of some other person and he is not plotted. Will you kindly provide this Commission with a description of this property. In this consumer's most recent communication he states that some official of your company informed him that the Commission's decision fixing the \$70 irrigation rate was to apply only upon the tracts covered by contracts with the San Diego Flume Co. I realize that this was a mistaken statement on the part of your employees and trust that you will correct the impression, as the irrigation rates are to apply upon all areas above one-half an acre used for commercial purposes, and this is believed to be clearly set forth in the decisions of the Commission.

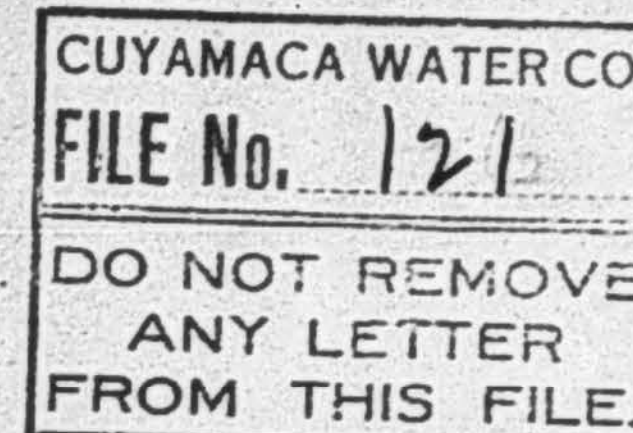
Very truly yours,



*Alex Gordon*  
Commissioner.

RWH:MR

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, Sept. 28, 1914.



Railroad Commission,  
of the State of California,  
833 Market St.,  
San Francisco, Calif.

Gentlemen:

Answering your letter of Sept. 23d, regarding the water rate of Niles E. Baker, at Lemon Grove: While it is true that Mr. Baker has over one-half acre of land, it is also true that his property consists of four fifty-foot lots, and when he built his house it was on the understanding that he was to be furnished domestic water only.

We never agreed to furnish him irrigation water; neither have we ever furnished anyone else with irrigating water excepting under the old contracts. Mr. Baker did not have a water right contract of any kind. In addition, Mr. Baker has a pumping plant on his own property, and can pump irrigating water any time he wants.

We do not feel that we should be compelled to furnish Baker with water at irrigation rates. He built his house on the understanding that he was to pay for water at domestic rates, and it seems a great injustice to us that you should now force us to reduce our rate from 25¢ per thousand gallons, the rate Mr. Baker has always paid for over six years, to 1¢ per thousand gallons, which is \$70 an inch, the irrigation rate on contracts.

If we allow him 1/8" of water and charge him irrigation rates, others will demand the same treatment, and we have not the water to furnish at the present time. Neither is it fair to make us furnish same at \$70 an inch or 1¢ a thousand gallons, for every drop of water that we develop on our Cuyamaca system costs us between 7¢ and 8¢ a thousand gallons.

Mr. Baker now demands 1/8 inch of water, while heretofore he has never used on an average of 1/80 of an inch, or 1200 to 1400 cu. ft. per month.

We should be pleased to have your views on this point.

Yours very truly,

CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY

66

Manager.

F-S



CUYAMACA WATER CO.  
FILE No. 121  
DO NOT REMOVE  
ANY LETTER  
FROM THIS FILE.

Lemon Grove Cal Sept 29th 1914  
Mr W P Ellis

Dear Sir

I was in the Cuyamaca Water Co's office yesterday to reply verbally to your letter of the 25th inst. You are right, I do say that I want  $\frac{1}{4}$  Miners inch of water per acre on my land in plot "C" Ex Mission Ranch and I do further say that at any time that should use more than the  $\frac{1}{4}$  Miners inch under the \$70. per Miners inch I will pay for what I use over what I am entitled to at the domestic rate 15¢ per one thousand gallons. I received a letter from the R R Commissioners dated Sept 24th 1914 in reply to mine of the 19th that I wrote them in compliance with your request. Reply to the same written the 24th from the R R Commissioners saying they had forwarded <sup>an order</sup> to the Cuyamaca Water Co to place on the irrigating rate of \$70.00 per annum for  $\frac{1}{4}$  Miners inch. I went down to have you comply with your agreement to furnish the goods if I got an order from the R R Commissioners, but was not permitted to see you. Mathews said I must see Mr Fletcher. Made an appointment to meet him 2 o'clock pm he failed to comply with the plan. I remained in the office until 4 pm without seeing Mr Fletcher. Yours in haste Wiles E Barker

CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY  
SUCCESSORS TO  
THE SAN DIEGO PLUME COMPANY  
OFFICE, FLETCHER BUILDING  
918 EIGHTH STREET, BETWEEN D AND E  
P. O. BOX 1412

ED FLETCHER, MANAGER  
LOU B. MATHEWS, SECRETARY  
C. HARRITT, SUPERINTENDENT

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA. Sept. 29, 1914.

Case 631

Railroad Commission,  
State of California,  
833 Market Street,  
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

Attention Mr. Alex Gordon

Relative to your letter of September 23rd regarding water supply to Niles E. Baker at Lemon Grove, Mr. Baker has over one-half acre of land which he has in garden and orchard. His extended use of water from the Cuyamaca system averages less than 0.02 Miners Inch for which he heretofore paid the Company 25¢ a thousand gallons. If our understanding is correct, your Commission requires that we allow this 0.02 Miners Inch at the \$70.00 rate and refund any moneys that were paid us in excess of the \$70.00 per Miners Inch since July 1st, 1913.

Thanking you for a reply regarding this matter, we are,

Yours very truly,

CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY,

By \_\_\_\_\_

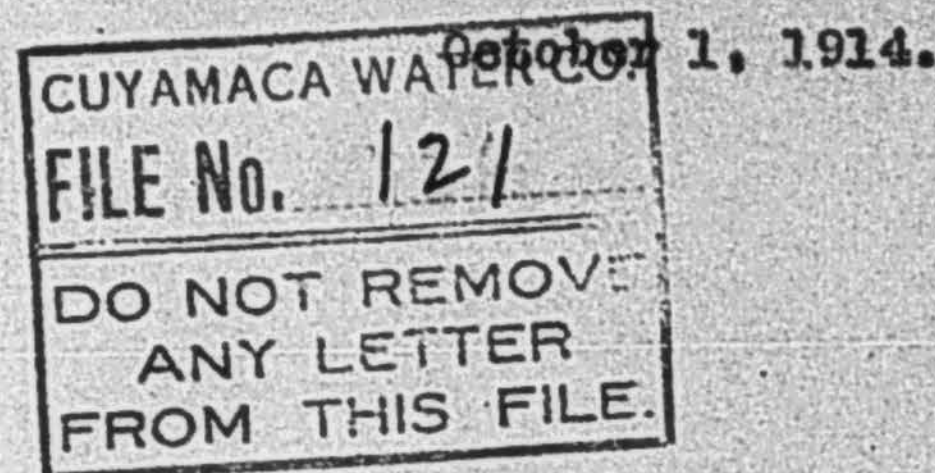
TPE-BK

Map Enclos.

CUYAMACA WATER CO.  
FILE No. 121  
DO NOT REMOVE  
ANY LETTER  
FROM THIS FILE.

Don't  
Mail  
Hold





Mr. Niles E. Baker,  
Lemon Grove, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

I have your letter of September 29th relative to your demand for one-eighth miners inch of water. The Railroad Commission did make the statement mentioned in your letter and the matter is entirely clear to me. It remains, however, for them to say that you should be entitled to any more than your regular established allowance, which they did not state in their letter to us. I have indirectly taken this matter up with the Commissioners for a decision on this point and you will hear again from me in due time. The idea is not to work a hardship on any one of the consumers and to treat each as the Commission suggests. I advise that you let the matter slide for a week or two and any adjustment can be made at that time.

Yours very truly,

Cuyamaca Water Company.

By \_\_\_\_\_

TPE-BK

JOHN M. ESHLEMAN, COMMISSIONER, PRESIDENT  
H. D. LOVELAND, COMMISSIONER  
ALEX GORDON, COMMISSIONER  
EDWIN O. EDGERTON, COMMISSIONER  
MAX ELEN, COMMISSIONER, ATTORNEY

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Railroad Commission**  
of the  
**State of California**

TENTH FLOOR, COMMERCIAL BUILDING  
833 MARKET STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO

C. 631.

October,  
Second,  
1914.

CHARLES R. DETRICK, SECRETARY  
H. H. SANBORN, RATE EXPERT  
R. SACHSE, ACT. CHIEF ENGINEER  
L. R. REYNOLDS, AUDITOR  
P. A. SINSHEIMER, BOND EXPERT

TELEPHONE-BUTTER 2260



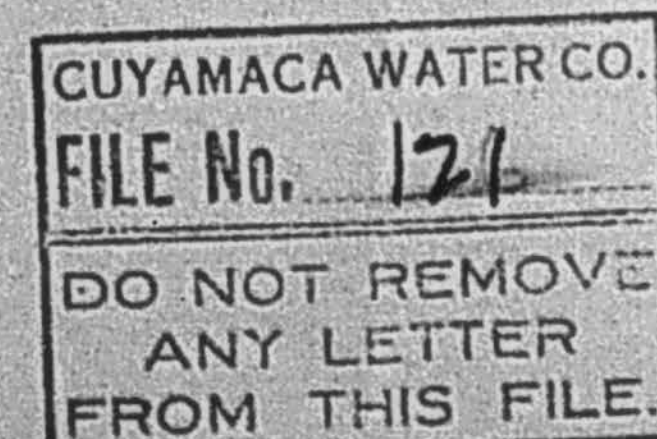
Cuyamaca Water Co.,  
920 Eighth St.,  
San Diego, Calif.

Gentlemen:

Your letter of September 28th in re. the complaint of Niles E. Baker duly received. Under the rules and regulations which you suggested and which received the approval of the Commission, Mr. Baker undoubtedly must be considered an irrigation consumer, regardless of whether or no he had ever entered into a contract with your company or its predecessor. Under the circumstances, we cannot agree that you are being compelled to furnish Baker with water at irrigation rates, but rather that you have brought this action upon yourselves and to be consistent that Mr. Baker must now be given water at the rate of \$70 per miner's inch continuous flow. However, as was suggested in the recent letter of Commissioner Gordon, the amount of water that Mr. Baker should receive, should be approximately that which he has used recently.

We suggest this to be about 1/8 of an inch as Mr. Baker stated that to be the amount charged for on tracts contiguous to his of equal area. Whether this water is costing you up to 8 cents a thousand gallons or no, is a matter entirely apart, and one that will be considered in connection with your application upon which a hearing will be conducted later this year.

It appears that in the meantime, Mr. Baker is as much entitled to the irrigation rate as any other consumer similarly classified under your rules and regulations and the orders of the Commission. Neither other irrigation consumers nor Mr. Baker are as we understand it, receiving water at so much for the average use, but rather that the \$70 rate will give a return to the company nearer 2 1/2¢ per thousand gallons actually delivered than the 1 1/2¢ rate of return should the flow be uniform and of the full amount contracted. There appears to be no way in which the Commission can absolve you from your apparent obligation to adjust Mr. Baker's rate, and we suggest that you act accordingly.



RWH:MR

Respectfully,

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

By

*Charles R. Detrick*  
Secretary.



October 13, 1914.

O. 631.

State Railroad Commission,  
833 Market Street,  
San Francisco, Cal.

Gentlemen:-

Relative to your letter of October 2nd (C.631)  
regarding water supply to Hiles E. Baker at Lemon Grove  
stating, - "the amount of water that Mr. Baker should receive,  
should be approximately that which he has used recently."  
His long period use of water from the Cuyamaca system is  
about 0.025 Miners Inch as shown by the accompanying list.  
If our understanding is correct, your Commission grants that  
any half acre (or above) consumer may demand irrigation ser-  
vice to the same extent at this time that he received prior  
to March 23, 1912, but chargeable at the present irrigation  
rate. Therefore, it is correct to allow Mr. Baker such amount  
as his use has established. Hence 0.025 M.I. maximum demand at  
\$70.00 per annum will fullfil our obligation.

Trusting that this is satisfactory, we are,

Yours very truly,

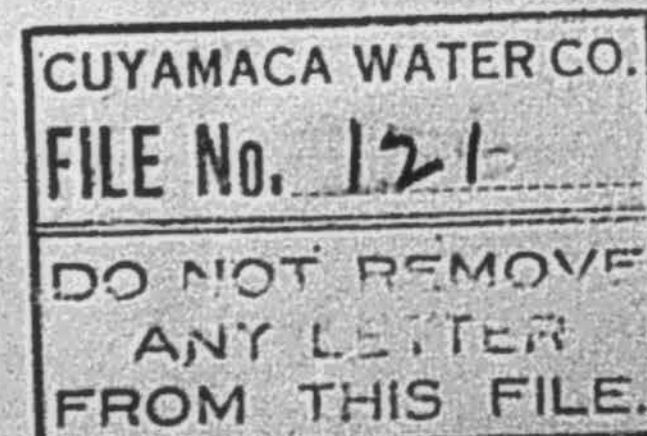
CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY,

By \_\_\_\_\_

Manager.

TPE-BK

List Enclos.

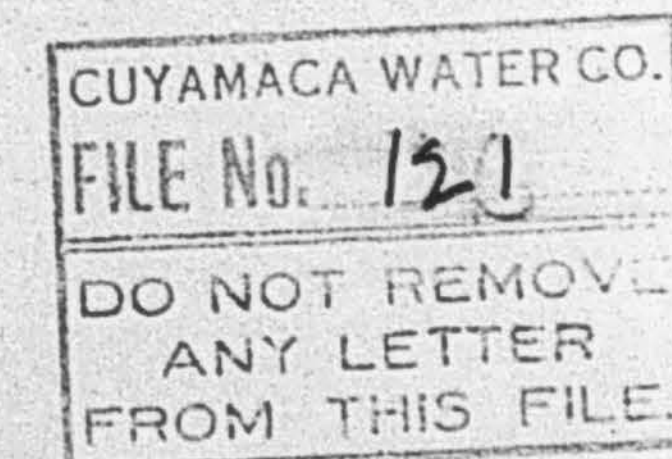


List showing the water consumption of Hiles E. Baker.

C 631.

Cuyamaca Water Co.

	<u>1911</u>	<u>1912</u>	<u>1913</u>	<u>1914</u>
January	1179 cu.ft.	1340 cu. ft.	800 cu. ft.	600 cu.ft.
February	1170	730	770	600
March	1000	780	780	600
April	1150	800	800	500
May	17	810	942	800
June	1313	1170	800	800
July	1045	820	1000	830
August	680	910	900	760
September	785	900	800	870
October	930	870	800	
November	440	830	600	
December	900	850	600	
	10609	10810	9592	3363
Average	884	901	799	707
Maximum	1313	1340	1000	870
Greatest Maximum	1340 cu. ft = .026 M.I.			
Average use	825 " " = .016 M.I.			





JOHN M. ESHLEMAN, COMMISSIONER, PRESIDENT  
H. D. LOVELAND, COMMISSIONER  
ALEX GORDON, COMMISSIONER  
EDWIN J. EDGERTON, COMMISSIONER  
MAX ELEN, COMMISSIONER, ATTORNEY

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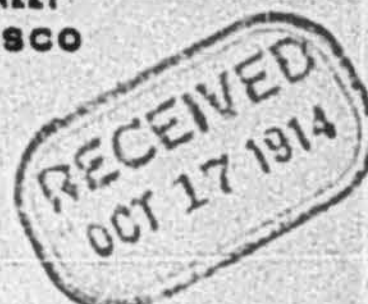
Railroad Commission  
of the  
State of California

TENTH FLOOR, COMMERCIAL BUILDING  
833 MARKET STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO

CHARLES R. DETRICK, SECRETARY  
H. H. SANBORN, RATE EXPERT  
R. SACHSE, ACT. CHIEF ENGINEER  
L. R. REYNOLDS, AUDITOR  
P. A. SINSHEIMER, BOND EXPERT

TELEPHONE—BUTTER 2260

Case 631.



October,  
FOURTEENTH,  
1914.

Cuyamaca Water Co.,  
916 Eighth St.,  
San Diego, Calif.

CUYAMACA WATER CO.  
FILE No. 121  
DO NOT REMOVE  
ANY LETTER  
FROM THIS FILE.

Gentlemen:

The complaint of Niles E. Baker against the rates assessed against his property by your company has been investigation, and report made to the Commission. While it appears that a strict interpretation of the rules of your company would place this consumer in the class of irrigation users, and it would then be necessary to apply the irrigation rate, it is however difficult to fix upon the amount of water that should be set aside for this irrigation use, and as there apparently would be a very considerable difficulty over the charges against other similar consumers, it appears proper that the rate established by decision upon Case 631 should apply in this instance, and Mr. Baker has been so informed.

*refers to  
15 from McJals*

You will of course, adjust all payments for water used since the approval of the rules and regulations now in effect upon this basis and credit Mr. Baker with the difference between the amounts so derived and the payments actually made. There may of course, be a reconsideration of such matters at the time of the hearing upon Application 1231.

Respectfully,  
RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

BY

Chas. R. Detrick  
Secretary.

RWH.MR

JOHN M. ESHLEMAN, COMMISSIONER, PRESIDENT  
H. D. LOVELAND, COMMISSIONER  
ALEX GORDON, COMMISSIONER  
EDWIN J. EDGERTON, COMMISSIONER  
MAX ELEN, COMMISSIONER, ATTORNEY

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RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Railroad Commission  
of the  
State of California

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SAN FRANCISCO

CHARLES R. DETRICK, SECRETARY  
H. H. SANBORN, RATE EXPERT  
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L. R. REYNOLDS, AUDITOR  
P. A. SINSHEIMER, BOND EXPERT

TELEPHONE—BUTTER 2260

Case 631.

October,  
Seventeenth,  
1914.

Ed Fletcher, Esq.,  
Fletcher Bldg.,  
San Diego, Calif.

CUYAMACA WATER CO.  
FILE No. 121  
DO NOT REMOVE  
ANY LETTER  
FROM THIS FILE.

Dear Sir:

The Commission has received a report of the investigation made by its Hydraulic Engineer in the matter of the rates charged Niles E. Baker of Lemon Grove, Calif.

It appears definitely that Mr. Baker has used water for the irrigation of trees on a tract of more than one-half acre in extent and although he has paid at the domestic rate for this water, the use has been to a large extent an irrigation use. It is undoubtedly true that Mr. Baker has not used in the past several years at a greater rate throughout any one month than 1/40 miner's inch, but it must be admitted that Mr. Baker has been paying at a rate, which under the terms of your rules and regulations and the decisions of the Commission, is an improper rate, the irrigation rate being established for areas over one-half acre upon which water is used for commercial purposes, even though there be a dwelling upon the tract.

It also seems no more than just that Mr. Baker be allowed water in the same amount that other irrigation consumers on tracts of equal area and similarly situated are entitled to receive, which as we understand it, would be 1/8 miner's inch, the amount of water that he has requested and for which he should pay you at the rate of \$8.75 per annum.

It appears from the tabulation accompanying your letter of October 13th that Mr. Baker has used subsequent to September 1st, 1913, about 6800 cubic feet, for which we presume, he has been charged at the rate of 18¢ per 100 cubic feet, amounting to a total payment in this period of \$12.75. We suggest therefore, that you should credit Mr. Baker with \$4.00 On account.

*Mr Baker used 1870 cu ft  
in month of Sept 1914 = \$3.50*

Respectfully,

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

BY

Chas. R. Detrick  
Secretary.

RWH.MR.



October 27, 1914.

State Railroad Commission,  
833 Market Street,  
San Francisco, Calif.

Gentlemen:-

Receipt of your letter of October 14th is hereby  
acknowledged.

We believe the Commission is justified in demanding  
that, (as per your letter of October 2nd) "the amount of water  
that Mr. Baker should receive at irrigation rates should be  
approximately that which his previous use has established."  
We see no reason for treating Mr. Baker as a new consumer by  
increasing this allowance as it is contrary to the attitude taken  
in the Commission's Decision No. 536. The relative use of one  
Miners Inch to 4 acres does hardly exist as an exception in irri-  
gation use anywhere on the system as stated erroneously by Mr.  
Baker.

*1" to 10 ac. i.e. 1/20 or .05 M.I. to 0.5 ac  
allow him 0.05 M.I. Ellis*  
Unless further demand is made upon us to furnish Mr.

Baker with 1/8 Miners Inch, we shall proceed with 0.025 M.I. as  
maximum allowance at irrigation rates, otherwise both the Cuyamaca  
Water Company and the Commission will establish a precedent that  
may prove troublesome in dealing with other consumers.

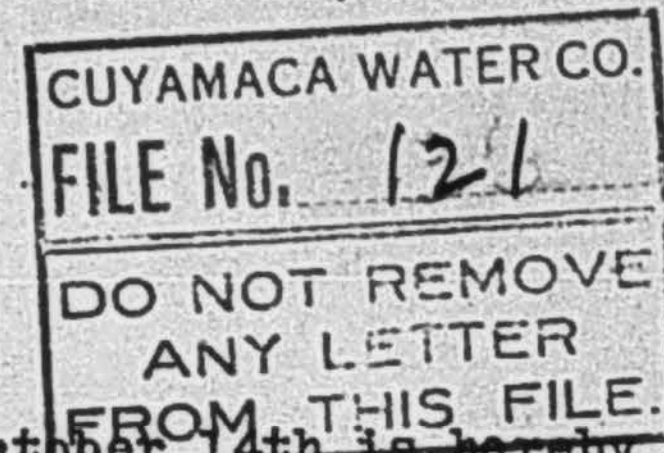
The credit on account, as directed in your letter, will  
be made on the books.

Yours very truly,

CUYAMACA WATER COMPANY,

By \_\_\_\_\_

TPE-BK



Dec. 21, 1914.

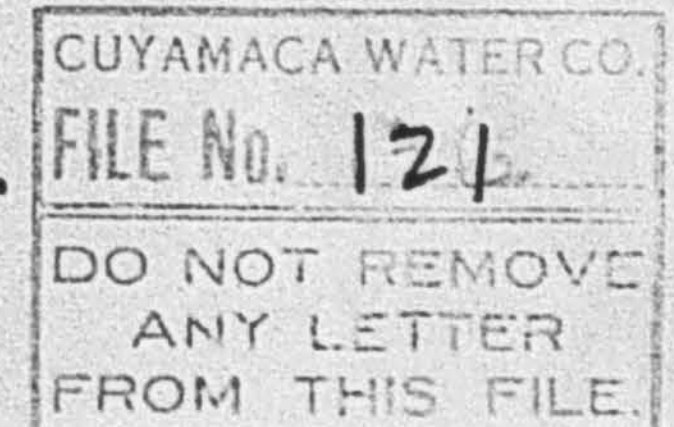
*.05 20*  
Mr. Mathews:

I return herewith the Compton papers, also three  
letters regarding people who do not want water. Kepp for  
future reference; I may want to introduce them in court.

What is the interpretation of the Railroad Commission  
orders, and what are we charging Mr. Baker, of Lemon Grove,  
for one inch of water? Is it domestic, irrigation or what  
kind of water?

EF:BB

Ed Fletcher.





**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 54 Folder: 15**

**Business Records - Water Companies - Cuyamaca  
Water Company - Cuyamaca Customers -  
Customer correspondence - Baker, N. E., I.C.#1231**



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