

REMARKS BY COLONEL ED FLETCHER
TO WATER COMMITTEE OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
TODAY.

By all means, do not burden the taxpayers with the construction of expensive dams at this time; settle with District first according to their offer for about \$250,000.00. This gives the city the complete control of the San Diego River, three or four million gallons of additional water a day from Murray Dam and three or four million gallons daily during the eight months period additional water that can be pumped from the gravels of the San Diego River without interfering with the City's present supply or the Irrigation District's present supply.

The Mission Valley water bearing gravels are in excess of 3000 acres and have stored in them roughly 11,250,000,000 gallons; can have ten or twelve billion gallons daily for an eight months pumping period during our driest years without replenishment.

The San Pasqual gravels consisting of approximately 3200 acres with an average depth of 50 feet hold 160,000 acre feet or approximately 13,530,000,000 gallons, or eight million gallons daily for a four years' supply if it does not rain another drop.

Colonel Fletcher's second recommendation is to acquire the balance of the San Pasqual gravels, also a million and a half dollars in building a pipe line 28 or 30 miles across the Linda Vista Mesa to Pano Dam site, the Old Linda Vista Mesa

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Irrigation District plan diverting what gravity water can be diverted from the river itself as well as pumping from the San Pasqual gravels into the pipe line which will run thru the valley on to San Diego adding another eight or ten million gallons of water to the city's supply.

These underground reservoirs should be drawn on first as there is no expensive cost of building dams and it is the cheapest water that can be developed in the county.

Let posterity build the major dams.

If any dams are built, first, Colonel Fletcher recommends Mission Gorge No. 3 with a net safe yield of eight million gallons daily holding 45,000 acre feet, flooding only 1424 acres with less than 200 acres of good land destroyed, the water being stored in the Mission Gorge Canyon and by gravity it will furnish water to the lower levels of the city or can be pumped to the higher levels of the city at a small expense. There will be no valuable land destroyed and the cost of building Mission Gorge No. 3 is less than a million and a quarter dollars.

It will be the single arch or constant angle type of dam designed by L. Jorgensen of San Francisco, similar to the Pacoima Dam built by Los Angeles at a cost of \$2,500,000. The Pacoima Dam has 228,000 cubic yards of concrete and a height of 365 feet, the highest dam in the world, while Mission Gorge No. 3, the same type, has only 115,000 cubic yards of concrete, is only 230 feet high, and the dam itself can be built today for \$1,000,000.00, with a total cost of not to exceed one and a quarter million complete, including excavations, engineering etc.

Mr. Jorgensen has designed and built 47 dams of this type, while the U. S. Government have built many others of similar type, including the Pathfinder Dam, Wyoming, 218 feet high; Shoshoni Dam, 528 feet high; the Lake Spaulding Dam built by the Pacific Gas and Electric Light Company, also 275 feet high; all the above single arch type.

INTERVIEW BY COLONEL ED FLETCHER

The city council tomorrow will probably decide the question of the acquisition of the San Pasqual Valley lands. I have no interest, directly or indirectly in the property, but as a citizen of San Diego having the best interest of the city at heart, and after 25 years' experience in the development of water in this county, I feel it my duty to by all means urge the immediate acquisition of these properties at the 20 percent reduction in price made by the property owners. This opportunity, I feel, will never come again.

My reasons for advocating a settlement at thistime are as follows:

First: The city will be acquiring the largest underground source of water supply in this county, at a lower cost per acre than the City of Los Angeles has been paying for similar lands 275 miles away in the Owens Valley, on the average.

Second: The city has a million and a half or two million dollars invested in Sutherland dam, and another half million or so will complete it. No water can be taken out of Sutherland dam and diverted to San Diego without the acquisition of these lands, as they are all riparian to the stream and below Sutherland. The Supreme Court has already decided this question in the case of Sawday-Jacoby vs San Pasqual Ranchers, in the early 90's. Sawday, Jacoby, et al drove a tunnel thru the mountains just above Sutherland dam intending to divert the waters of the Santa Ysabel River into the Witch Creek-Ramona section for placer mining purposes. The same lands which the city is now acquiring filed suit and enjoined the diversion above mentioned, with the result that the Supreme Court of the State granted a permanent injunction ^{any diversion} against any diversion. When these lands are acquired practically all of the riparian lands of any importance between Sutherland Dam and Lake Hodges will have been acquired by the city, giving the city an absolutely free hand to complete the Sutherland dam at its pleasure.

When completed Sutherland dam will be probably the cheapest water that to date has ever been developed by the City of San Diego.

Third: San Diego is planning some day the construction of super Hodges^{Dam}. San Diego already owns 70 or 80 percent of the lands that will be flooded by the construction of super Hodges dam. By acquiring these properties at this time it gives San Diego city complete ownership of practically all of the lands that will be flooded by the construction of the so-called super Hodges.

Fourth: By the acquisition of these properties, together with what the city now owns, the city will own the largest underground body of water bearing gravels in the county, from which 10 to 15 million gallons of water daily can be pumped during the 8 or 9 months hot weather period each year, as needed. For a million and a quarter to a million and a half, this water can be delivered by a pipe line across the Linda Vista mesa to University Heights reservoir at a cost for pumping and delivery into the city at not to exceed 10 cents a thousand gallons. This price is less than one-half the cost of the development of surface water heretofore developed by the city. It means enough water to take care of another 100,000 or 150,000 people.

The water will come in by gravity to all the higher levels of the city and save \$50,000 a year which the city is now paying for boosting water after it reaches the city limits. This pipe line should also bring eventually the Sutherland water to San Diego by gravity.

This development also will make possible the development of Linda Vista mesa, 20,000 to 30,000 acres of which are within the city limits of San Diego.

With the acquisition of these riparian lands, within 18 months if necessary, the pipe lines can be installed and water delivered to the city in an emergency. To give you one illustration, the El Monte pumping plants which the Cuyamaca Water Company installed, the last two years have been pumping roughly 6 million gallons of water a day, or over a billion gallons of water a year, from the underground gravels,

supplying practically all of the demands of the La Mesa District, and at a cost of less than 4 cents a thousand gallons for the 290 foot lift into the flume, leaving an abundant supply of water still in those gravels above Lakeside for future use.

The property owners of the San Pasqual Valley have made an offer which it will be almost a crime to reject, and if accepted will be one of the greatest forward steps for the protection of San Diego's water supply that the city council has taken.

San Diego is drifting into endless litigation re the entire

Lake Hodges project.

Our high priced, high pressured attorney, T. B. Cosgrove, wants a new job at \$200 a day while in court and \$150 a day out of court to settle the Lake Hodges situation. Before he gets thru it will cost another million dollars as it did the litigants/^{the city, the district and the Cuyamaca Water Company,} on the San Diego River. It will kill the growth and bankrupt the present Santa Fe and San Dieguito Irrigation Districts.

The proposed plan is to cancel the contract with the water company and sue for the money paid forgetting that the water from the Lake Hodges-Sutherland system is the largest and cheapest potential source of supply for the future San Diego with a minimum of 15 or 20 million gallons a day available at a cost of less than 10 cents a thousand gallons delivered to the city for 150,000 to 200,000 people.

In addition to the loss of San Diego's future water supply it means an absolute loss of a million and a half dollars spent in the building of Sutherland dam, also \$250,000 paid out in options and other expenses in San Pasqual Valley. San Diego city will also have to account for the \$164,250 the old city council appropriated in violation of the contract with the water company and used for other municipal purposes, money belonging to the San Dieguito fund.

This lease or contract was entered into on the representations that it would build up a surplus of \$500,000 in the thirty year period. Up to July 1, 1932, in less than eight year, this surplus fund has amounted to \$254,000. This lease is doing far better than the original representations.

Why spend \$50,000 litigating as to who should strengthen Lake Hodges Dam when for \$75,000 or \$100,000 a modified plan will undoubtedly meet the state engineer's approval and the water company will undoubtedly allow this money to be taken from the San Dieguito purchase fund to strengthen the dam against a major earthquake.

The only delinquency at the present time is \$40,000 by the Santa Fe District. They are delinquent, I understand, 28% in taxes with no demand for water on account of no demand for agricultural products. That \$40,000 can be raised in two weeks and paid to the city by the Santa Fe District if the city will only grant a two or three year moratorium until times get normal. This last year under its contract the district is paying \$50,375.00 for water it was forced to buy under its contract and could not use. I would suggest either a moratorium or a new contract, ~~with~~ with a higher price for water paying for whatever they use. The same applies to the San Dieguito District if it is their desire to be helped.

The City Water Commission recommended that we stop making payments on our lease. This would invalidate the contract, throw the whole mess into litigation and lose forever water for 150,000 people.

The acquisition of the balance of the San Pasqual gravels and the completion of Sutherland Dam are invaluable with the future growth of this city.

After spending a million dollars in litigation on the San Diego River, thanks to Mr. Cosgrove, the La Mesa district is getting two million gallons a day more water than it would have settled for with the state engineer's approval in 1916. Mr. Cosgrove admits that the riparian owners have valuable secondary rights on the San Diego River which will have to be reckoned with. That is it was carried on on his advice when the city could have bought the whole Cuyamaca system, El Capitan damsite and the El Monte pumping plants and water rights for \$745,000 in 1916. If this had been done we would have saved the cost of litigation and had all of the water of the San Diego River developed today.

I was president of the company that built Lake Hodges Dam. When we sold the system to the San Diego County Water Company I retained no

interest and was not a party directly or indirectly to the leasing or contracting the Lake Hodges system to the city. My interest today is only as a citizen of San Diego and a small property owner within the boundaries of the Santa Fe and San Dieguito District asking for a square deal also to help protect the city's future heritage.

Every drop of San Diego's surface water developed costs the City of San Diego 22¢ a thousand gallons delivered to the city limits. When Mr. Henshaw and I offered the city up to 10 million gallons a day in 1918 from Henshaw Dam, all the water the city wanted, delivered in the University Heights reservoir at 8¢ a thousand gallons and agreed to put 20,000 acres more on the Linda Vista Mesa inside the city limits and ^{adjoining} San Diego under water from Henshaw dam, the city refused and forever lost the development of 50,000 people on Linda Vista Mesa with Henshaw water as well as being forced to pay three times the cost of water which the city ~~could~~ develop ^{ed} itself. The Henshaw water went to Vista and Escondido where 90% of the merchants there buy their merchandise from Los Angeles according to Santa Fe Railroad records.

Are we going to make another miserable error, cancel this contract with the Lake Hodges system and allow attorneys to get rich at our expense with a loss to the city of millions of dollars, thousands of people in our city and county and by litigation ruin the growth for years of our suburban section? San Diego city directly or indirectly will be responsible.

Citizens of San Diego please watch every move that is made from now on. The city must not under any condition abrogate this lease contract.

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VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
VISTA, CALIFORNIA
November 20th, 1932

To Property Owners and Water Users
in the Vista Irrigation District,
Vista, California.

The Board of Directors of this District for some time has realized the steadily increasing tax delinquencies and that some steps must be taken to lighten the taxpayers' load or it would be obliged to default in the payment of bond interest and other obligations of the District.

Major improvements were stricken from the operation costs of the District in 1932 and a very small allowance made for 1933. Salaries and wages as well as all other costs, where possible, were cut during the year, but these were of very little effect in reducing the tax burden. The major obligations of the District are bond interest and water contract payments. These for 1933 would be \$309,900.00. In order to meet the budget requirements including these two accounts it would be necessary to levy a tax of approximately \$26.60 per acre. It was reasonable to assume that such a levy, in face of the present conditions, would cause a still greater delinquency than heretofore. It was, therefore, decided that the only relief of any consequence must come from the Water Company.

Mr. Treanor, of the San Diego County Water Company, was called into conference during the latter part of 1931, and again many times in 1932, each time the general conditions of the country being more acute. The proposition for reduction in costs of water per acre foot, and in the amount to be paid for as per terms of our contract, were discussed.

After considerable consideration, Mr. Treanor, on behalf of the San Diego County Water Company, agreed to consider a reduction in the payment on our water contract to the paying for the water we actually use; provided, however, that some relief from the bondholders be obtained.

Immediately a committee, representing different types of holdings in the District, was appointed to work with the Directors, formulating a plan of relief they thought feasible and equitable with the bondholders and the Water Company, and one that it was thought would balance the obligations of the District and avoid the greatest amount of delinquencies.

After considerable work a plan was presented to the Directors and Committee and adopted. This plan was then presented to several of the large bondholders. They were much in accord with the proposed plan and believed that it was reasonable, workable, and would be accepted by the bondholders as a whole if properly presented and explained.

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Negotiations had advanced to such an extent at the time the Board was obliged to set the tax rate for 1933 that they felt justified in setting the rate on the basis of the plan being worked out.

The comparative figures of the rate of assessment and water tolls that it would be necessary to levy on the old setup and the new, based on the average valuation of \$155.53 per acre, are as follows:

OLD SETUP FOR 1933:

Rate \$7.80 per \$100.00 valuation, or	\$12.13	per acre
Water toll	<u>14.25</u>	" "
	\$26.38	" "

NEW SETUP FOR 1933:

Rate \$4.80 per \$100.00 valuation, or	\$ 7.47	" "
Plus cost of water, at the same rate as now, payable monthly if and when used.		

It is estimated that the savings to the property owners of the District during the next five year period on the new plan will be in the neighborhood of \$600,000.00.

We feel confident that with the greatly reduced tax rate for 1933 many will be able to pay not only the current assessments but past due delinquencies where on the old schedule they would go delinquent. Several cases of this kind have already come to our notice.

This readjustment has been made for the benefit of the taxpayers and we trust that you will make every effort possible to meet the payments of your assessment as they become due. If you will put confidence in your Board of Directors and the Committee who have been working incessantly for several months on this plan and will cooperate in every possible way, we feel that values and credits in this District will be greatly stabilized.

It will be necessary, undoubtedly, that the rules and regulations be changed somewhat to conform to the new setup. Property owners will be notified of these changes when made.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Revision of Rules and Regulations

Nov. 5, 1932

Sec. 10. PAYMENT OF WATER BILLS

(a) All charges for water used during any month will become due and payable on the 1st day of the following month at the office of the Secretary of the District and shall be delinquent and 5% added if not paid by the 20th of such month. If water user allows his water bills to go delinquent for 60 days from the first delinquent date all water service will be discontinued and will only be turned on upon payment of bills for water due plus penalties and \$1.00 service charge.

(b) If water is to be used upon any land by a tenant the landowner must file a notice of such intended use on forms prepared by the District with the Secretary of the District before use of water will be allowed. Such notices shall be in the form of an agreement, whereby the owner assumes full responsibility for payment of water bills.

(c) All delinquent water bills shall become a lien on the land and consumers delinquent for 80 days at the time of preparation of the assessment roll shall be listed by the Secretary and the Board of Directors shall instruct the Assessor and Tax Collector to enter such delinquency on the District assessment roll against the lands to which the water was delivered, and such Assessor and Tax Collector shall collect same as part of the regular assessment.

Field employees of the District are not authorized to receive money or checks from water consumers in payment of water bills. Remittances should be made payable to the Vista Irrigation District and sent to the office of the Secretary of the District.

Revision of Rules and Regulations

Nov. 5, 1932

Sec. 26 USE OF WATER UPON WAIVED LAND

(a) All consumers who desire to use water upon the so-called waived lands, that is, lands of which the present owner or past owner has assigned all water rights to the District, will be required to file an application for such use, with the Secretary of the District, upon forms prepared by the District, each year in which water is desired. Such application must describe the waived land upon which water is desired and be accompanied with a service payment of a certain amount per acre as noted below, or in case the owner has both watered and waived land and prefers to use water upon the waived land and allow an equal or greater acreage of the watered land to remain unused, then the application must so state and give a description of both parcels, but need not be accompanied with a service payment. Such applications will not become effective until acted upon favorably by the Board of Directors of the District. The service payment shall be \$7.00 per acre for the year 1933, which said sum shall be in addition to the cost of water as provided in Section 8 of these Rules and Regulations, and shall be fixed by the Board for each year thereafter so as to conform to the assessment levied against the average acre of watered land in the District.

(b) No water will be delivered for use upon waived lands until such requests have been acted upon by the Board.

(c) If consumer uses water upon waived land without first filing request as noted above and obtaining favorable action by the Board, all water service will be discontinued and will not be continued until such request is filed and acted upon and a charge of \$1.00 paid for turning off and on service.

(d) No application for use of water upon waived land will be approved by the Board where permanent crops are planted or where it is the intention of the consumer to plant permanent crops.

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 72 Folder: 27

**Writings and Interviews - Water History - Fletcher
remarks and interviews re Lake Hodges purchase**



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