

170-5
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Fallbrook, California

July 17, 1922

Mr. John Treanor,
San Diego, California.

Dear Sir:

A committee from the Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce, appointed to investigate the possibilities of a water supply for this district, would like the pleasure of at least a short interview with you at your earliest convenience.

If this proves agreeable to you, we would be glad to have you let us know just when it would be most convenient to have the committee call at your office.

Very truly yours,
FALLBROOK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

By R. H. Blacklidge,
President

Delivered to Mr. Fletcher by mistake and forwarded to Mr. Treanor.

150-4
July 18th
1922

Mr. R. H. Blacklidge,
Box B-23,
Fallbrook, California.

My dear Mr. Blacklidge:

Confirming my verbal promise, I submit a general plan for the consideration of the Fallbrook people in their endeavors to acquire a supply of water for that section.

We made surveys, planning to furnish your section with water from Lake Henshaw Dam, but found the cost excessive. The cost of pumping water from the San Luis Rey Valley would be so great with the endless litigation that that also would be very expensive water. A gravity supply should be secured, and the only economical way of getting it is from the Temecula River.

I will be glad to cooperate with you and the Fallbrook people in any way that I can. The cheapest way to get any large quantity of water to the Fallbrook section is to divert the water by gravity during the flood time and store it in some proposed reservoir near Fallbrook. There are one or two good possibilities that I see by the Geological Survey Map, but even if no reservoir was built at the present time, owing to lack of finances or ability to bond, a large size cement conduit or pipeline should be built to divert the water from the Temecula River at an elevation of about 1000 feet, bringing it on to the Fallbrook section by gravity. This supply could be reinforced by pumping during the Summer months, providing you acquired a tract of riparian land through which the river runs and from which water could be pumped. I would appreciate your letting me know at an early date the names of the owners of the land from the bridge to the canyon.

I will be glad to send our Engineer, Mr. King, up there early some Sunday morning, and, with you, he can walk the proposed route of the canal from its source to Fallbrook.

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7/18/23
R.H.B.

There have been nearly sixty irrigation districts organized and approved by the State Authorities within the last five years. I know of no private water development as a public utility going on in the state. This concludes the popularity of developing water through irrigation districts, and is much encouraged by the State Authorities. There must of necessity be a few public spirited citizens who will put up a small amount of money to pay the actual cost of getting some definite idea as to what it is going to cost to put the water on the lands, before any land owner is going to sign up to join an irrigation district. It will cost probably five hundred dollars to pay for all engineering and to get a report that would be worth anything to the community. You and our Engineer, Mr. King, can get up a report on estimate of cost that would carry a great deal of weight with the State Authorities, for this amount, and it would be fairly accurate. I suggest that five interested citizens put in \$100.00 a piece, or ten, \$50.00 a piece, and that a preliminary survey be run to get elevations and distances, and where necessary, preliminary location of reservoir as a future part of the proposed development, and in general the information necessary to make a preliminary estimate of cost, combined with a report that can be submitted to the State Engineer for his guidance.

No Irrigation District can be organized without the approval of the State Engineer of California, and no bond issues can be made without his approval and authorized by the State Bonding Commission. When their approval is secured, the bonds are saleable.

It is very imperative that everything be kept quiet as to your plans. It may be necessary to take option on some property and make a water filing before the State Water Commission so as to protect yourself before giving too much publicity to this matter.

I am going to put some little thought and time into this proposition so as to help you along, and it is possible that I can get the Santa Fe Railway Co. to take the bonds to finance the project. I will want

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7/18/23
R.H.B.

a reasonable compensation, if I am successful; otherwise no compensation whatever. I am so sanguine that this proposition is practical that I am going to give my services free in case of failure, and will leave the question of my compensation, by the payment in bonds of the district, or cash, to arbitration if we cannot agree as to my compensation in case I am successful in helping you organize an irrigation district, financing it, and putting water on your lands. If your committee cares to have me go ahead along these lines, I will be glad to do so.

Inclosed find a copy of the law that will furnish you the necessary information covering the organization of the district, that will be of interest.

Yours very truly,

EF:F

150-4

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Fallbrook Cal July 20-22

Mr E. Fletcher

Dear Sir: On examination of the records in the Assessor's office we found that the Empire land and cattle ~~co~~ own lots 24 and 25 of the Pauba land Water Co's Sub. of Temecula Rancho as well as numerous other lots. According to the maps the point where we were standing above the gorge is about the center of Lot 24 which is about a quarter of a mile wide. There is a man ^{named} by the of Hypolite Escallier who owns the

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northerly forty of lot 26. We perhaps water from the river. I am taking steps to find out whether his land touches the river. This would be much higher up stream. I am satisfied that we could get no financial help from these people for preliminary expenses. They persist in the belief that they can get the Santa Fe to at least help toward the expense of bringing the water from Warner's. I have told them that it is not feasible for this district to do it alone that the cost would be prohibitive. I told the Coys

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that ~~the~~ had better just forget the Santa Margarita water for the present.

If you wish send your engineer up any time except next Sunday let me know in advance have him come direct to my place Mr Gilman and I only shall know shall know the business in hand.

I am free to say that if we can influence the Santa Fe to bear at least a part of the expense of bringing the Warner's water and make it possible for us to I am favorable but if not then we must do it the other way. Yours Truly
R H Blockidge

July 24, 1922.

Mr. R. H. Blacklidge,
Fallbrook, Calif.

Answering yours of the 20th, will say that the Empire Land & Cattle Company are the available people.

It would be important to find out if Hypolite Escallier is a riparian owner and goes into the river and to what extent he has gravels to pump from.

The Santa Fe Railway have no interests whatever in the Warners project. Mr. Henshaw controls it all excepting that I have a working interest in the project. Mr. John Treanor represents Mr. Henshaw's interests.

We made a survey a year or more ago into Fallbrook and found that the cost of putting a pipeline over there was prohibitive.

Please get the information about the ownership of the land. I will have Mr. King come up there some Sunday in the near future.

Yours very truly,

EF:AH

150-4
San Diego, California,
July 25, 1922.

Mr. R. H. Blacklidge,
Fallbrook, California.

Dear Sir:

Colonel Fletcher has talked with me about a water supply for Fallbrook. If convenient for you, I shall be glad to come to Fallbrook August 6th and go over the proposition with you, or if you do not care to do this on Sunday I can arrange to come any day during the week of August 6th, excepting Tuesday, the 8th and Saturday, the 12th.

Kindly let me hear from you at an early date as to what arrangement desire to make.

Yours truly,

THK:KLM

T. H. King

July 28, 1922.

Mr. R. H. Blackledge,
Fallbrook, California.

Dear Sir:

Answering yours of July 26th, will say I have seen Mr. King and by this time you have no doubt received a letter saying he will be up there to go over the matter with you when convenient to you.

Glad to know there is a possibility of your getting in there. Let me know what price it can be bought at, and perhaps three or four of us can take it in together.

Yours sincerely,

EF:KLM

150-4

Fallbrook Calif July 26/22

Mr Ed Fletcher

San Diego Cal

Dear Mr Fletcher Your letters received. I regard your proposition very generous indeed. I assure absolute secrecy will mark every move.

I have learned that the 40 acres owned by Hypolite reaches into the river and about it on the market.

I will see what can be done toward purchase or option.

Yours Truly
R. H. Blackledge

150-4

August 12, 1922.

Mr. King spent Sunday with Mr. Blacklidge at Fallbrook. He says the project is entirely feasible, and he has located an excellent damsite with ample storage for all their needs. Everything looks good except the question of diversion and that looks serious as there has been a gauging station put up at that point, and he thinks by the O'Neils. He knows Mr. Blacklidge would welcome your taking over the whole project if you care to do it. This should all be kept quiet until bonds are voted on a municipal district at Fallbrook in two weeks' time.

150-4

October 21, 1922.

Mr. R. H. Blacklidge,
Fallbrook, Calif.

My dear Mr. Blacklidge:

I would like to know what you people in Fallbrook have planned to do about any water development. Unless there were five or six thousand acres got together in one district, I do not think there is any possibility of ever getting water from the Warners project - Lake Henshaw. But if you only have two or three thousand acres, in my opinion, your source is the Santa Margarita River, and the quicker you get at it, the better. Let me know if you have five or six thousand acres, and would they consider getting together to form a district.

By the way, how is the campaign going for our friend Westfall? I hope he will be re-elected, and know you will do everything you can. It would be a big mistake if there wasn't a 100% vote in the Fallbrook section for Westfall, and I am very sure he is going to win. Any suggestions you have to make will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

EF:M:H

OFFICERS	FALLBROOK CLIMATE UNEXCCELLED	DIRECTORS
R. H. BLACKLIDGE, President RAYMOND WAYMAN, Vice Pres. H. W. MOODY, Secretary W. M. GIBLER, Treasurer	San Diego averages 228 clear, 48 partly cloudy, 54 cloudy, and 42 rainy days a year Fallbrook averages 274 clear, 44 partly cloudy, 45 cloudy, and 35 rainy days a year Fallbrook's average annual rainfall, 17.14 inches. San Diego's average, 9.43 inches From U. S. Government Weather Records	W. D. WILT M. D. GILMAN B. H. MEERS C. C. BENTLEY FRED. SPENCE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA

Oct 23rd 1922

Mr Ed Fletcher
San Diego Cal

Dear Mr Fletcher Your letter of the 21 at hand. In reply will say that I have talked with Mr Westfall who tells me that you are willing to take up the matter of water supply with rails. I feel sure that you can handle that matter much better than we can so I will leave that matter with you. The 40 acres of Escallier is not as desirable because we would have to go to rails for the diversion dam site any way. Escallier is considerable distance from the gorge moreover he wants \$10,000. and will not option.

I have \$600. pledged for preliminary surveys mapping etc.
In your letter you state that unless we could get 5 or 6 thousand acres in a district that

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA

there would be no possibility getting water from Lake Mead. I have acted on statements that the expense from Farmers would be too great for the size of the district and I think I have pretty well dispelled the idea from the minds of Fallbrook. However I am going to make a rough map of the territory showing such lands as I think could come under a system and will mail you copy.
Mr Westfall thinks that we might proceed to form a district. I await your pleasure and will push the matter when it is decided what to do.

In regard to Mr Westfall's candidacy I have no doubt that he will win. There has been some opposition on account of his long time in office. I am satisfied ^{Barley} is not as strong now as he was in the primary. Barley might be a good man to entertain the court house bunch, but we want business there and I think the people are looking at that way.
Yours Truly
R H Blackledge

150-4

October 27, 1922.

Mr. R. H. Blackledge,
Fallbrook, Calif.

My dear Mr. Blackledge:

Answering yours of October 23rd,
I want to tell you in strict confidence that I
held a meeting yesterday with Vail, and he needs
my help in other matters, and I believe I can
get for you a proposition that will be interest-
ing. The main thing is secrecy at the present
time.

I am coming up to see you in a short
time. After election I would like to meet you and Mr.
Westfall on the ground. Let me know when it can be
arranged, and I will have something of interest to
tell you.

Yours very truly,

RF:AH

OFFICERS	FALLBROOK CLIMATE UNEXCCELLED	DIRECTORS
R. H. BLACKLEDGE, President RAYMOND WAYMAN, Vice Pres. E. W. MOODY, Secretary W. M. KIMBLE, Treasurer	San Diego averages 160 clear, 45 partly cloudy, 30 cloudy, and 45 rainy days a year Fallbrook averages 174 clear, 45 partly cloudy, 25 cloudy, and 35 rainy days a year Fallbrook's average annual rainfall, 17.5 inches. San Diego's average, 6.43 inches From U. S. Government Weather Records	W. D. WILT M. D. GILMAN R. B. HIGGINS C. C. WESTLEY FRED. SPENCE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA

Nov 1 1922

Mr Ed Fletcher

San Diego Calif

Dear Mr Fletcher: In reply to
your letter of Oct 27 in which you
impart some very encouraging
information. I will leave it to
you to fix the date and time of
meeting at Vails. You and Mr. Westfall
arrange time and let me know a day or
two ahead. I hope it will be as soon
as possible.
We hope to elect Mr Westfall and are working.
if he is defeated it will be soon by Coarros
I am afraid that he is being deceived by some
of that crowd
Yours truly
R. H. Blackledge

November
Fourteen
1922

File 150-4

Mr. R. H. Blacklidge,
Fallbrook, Calif.

My dear Mr. Blacklidge:

Will you kindly send me a rough map showing the lands within the Santa Margarita watershed that you think would go into an irrigation district, the idea being to form an irrigation district of only such lands within the Santa Margarita watershed at the present time.

This would give us a better standing in court, if necessary, than if we included lands outside the watershed. Later on when we are in the saddle, if we want to enlarge our district and take in outside lands that are tributary to the San Luis Rey watershed we might do so.

You might include on your map the lands that belong to Charles O'Neal that should be included in the proposed district and that are within the Santa Margarita watershed.

Please keep everything confidential, but things are working fine.

Yours sincerely,

EF:KLM

150-4

Fallbrook, Calif.

Nov 20 - 22

Mr Ed Fletcher
San Diego Cal

Dear Mr Fletcher: I am sending you by this mail map of a district which includes about 7000 acres exclusive of lands of Jerome O'Neill extending from the extremity of irrigable land on the north to the lands of O'Neill on the south. I have placed the 100ft contours as shown by government surveys. As per your request I have attached rough map of about 4000 acres of O'Neill land. I have shown the divide between watersheds by a green line on maps. You will note that the land in Santa Margarita Watershed is very small. One would be dependant entirely upon O'Neill. I will be glad to meet you soon.

Yours truly R.H. Blacklidge

150-4

Fallbrook Calif Nov 23/22

Dear Mr Fletcher

Your letter in regard to Mr
Harris proposition received
I think it would be well
for you to go over the matter
with him or I can go over
it with you
The distance and elevations
is all will be of any service
to us I think
I hope this will not delay
us any in pushing this
matter along

Yours Truly

R. H. Blacklidge

File 150-4

November
Twenty-Second
1922

Mr. R. H. Blacklidge,
Fallbrook, Calif.

My dear Mr. Blacklidge:

Inclosed find letter from
Harris that is explanatory, and which I received
today. Under all the circumstances, I guess I
had better see Mr. Harris myself. What do you
think?

Yours very truly,

EF:AH

I have recently convinced the city of San Diego that you can get no money from the State or Federal authorities to help build any dams for the conservation of water until the State authorities have investigated and recommended. **Mr. U. P. Head, President, Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce, Fallbrook, California** has seen fit to follow out my suggestion.

I secured from a special State fund, without the necessity of additional taxation, \$10,000 to be matched by \$10,000 from the City of San Diego; I acknowledged your letter of February 13th with mingled emotions. That you may have the background--it is a matter of history and record that 20 or 25 years ago the Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce invited Mrs. Fletcher and me as its guests and asked me to help solve the water problems of Fallbrook. Without expense to the Chamber of Commerce or anyone in Fallbrook I sent my engineer, Mr. T.H. King up there. He located 80 acres of land just below the bridge at Temecula, which I took an option on, and spotted a reservoir between Temecula and Fallbrook for a storage reservoir, bringing water to Fallbrook wholly by gravity. The plan was to store as much water in the reservoir possible to be built between Temecula and Fallbrook and in addition use all the water available by the diversion of the normal flow of water just below the Temecula bridge as well as operate the pumping plants on the 80 acres we had an option on. The plan I submitted was to form the Fallbrook District of 10,000 acres, 5000 around Fallbrook and 5000 acres adjoining within the Santa Margarita Ranch. The District would have nothing to pay for water rights and you would be working with the owners of the Santa Margarita ranch. I personally saw Mr. O'Neill who agreed to the proposition excepting that he would allow an organization of 5000 acres, 2500 acres outside the ranch and 2500 inside, and try it out, if it worked OK it would be increased later to 10,000. I then had the State Engineer of California, Mr. M.R. McClure, who then had the last word in connection with the formation of an irrigation district, to the situation over. He came here and approved the plan; we held a meeting at Fallbrook with the State Engineer present, but you people did not see fit to take any action. I was making no money out of it, asking no compensation and was giving the best that was in me for public service. I did the same thing for the town of Mamona and they got their local water supply without friction, with the approval of the State Engineer--you should have done likewise. Instead, you employed J.B. Lippincott and his recommendations I have always felt were ridiculous, pumping the water several hundred feet, when you could always get gravity water. As I explained to the Chamber of Commerce Directors at that time, it was an entering wedge working with the Santa Margarita Ranch owners, not against them, getting them to join you in forming the district--a small one at first. You could easily have secured

sufficient water for 5000 or 10,000 acres by the diversion of the normal flow of the stream and storage and pumping. Later by building a major dam at higher canyon east of Romecito, which I explored 30 years ago. This would be the solution of the problem of that section.

It seems an almost criminal waste of money, your hiring J.B. Lippincott and a waste of years of valuable time.

I have recently convinced the city of San Diego that you can get no money from the State or Federal authorities to help build any dams for the conservation of water until the State authorities have investigated and made favorable recommendations with estimates of costs, etc., with the result that recently the city of San Diego has seen fit to follow out my suggestion.

I secured from a special State fund, without the necessity of any legislation being enacted, \$10,000, to be matched by \$10,000 from the City of San Diego; the \$20,000 to be used by the State Engineer, Mr. Ed. Ryett and his office, in determining whether Buchanan Dam, Pecos Dam should be built or not and take proper steps to complete a study determining net safe yield and estimates of cost. The city signed the contract two weeks ago and sent its \$10,000 to the State, which I have arranged to have immediately matched from the special fund referred to and the investigation is now being made.

I suggest a like procedure for you—that you write a letter to me asking for the investigation; that I take the matter up with the State authorities for you matching with them dollar for dollar and get the State Engineer to make his report. I will also find out from the State Engineer roughly what it will cost to make the investigation, determining location of dam sites, explorations and estimates of cost. I would say \$5000 or \$10,000 be put up by San Diego County and matched by a like amount from the State would give you the necessary information. The vital thing is to have the report completed for the State Engineer's report will be accepted by the U.S. Reclamation Service or the U.S. Army Engineers and gives you an opportunity to get State and Federal funds to complete any development necessary to solve your water problems.

I am leaving for Sacramento for the regular session of the Legislature a week from next Thursday and with a letter from you authorizing me to see what can be done, I will take the matter up personally with the proper authorities in Sacramento, believing I can assist you in getting the necessary finances.

The Board of Supervisors of San Diego County should put up at least a fourth of this fund, you one-fourth and a half from the State, in my opinion. If it only costs \$10,000 the county would put up \$2500, Fallbrook \$2500 and the State \$5000.

It has taken me ten years to convince the City Council of San Diego that they cannot expect outside financing from either the State or Federal authorities until the State or Federal government has made complete investigations and the report is favorable to all parties and interests. The result is that not alone have they already appropriated \$10,000 to get the necessary report on the San Dieguito River from the State but I am of the opinion that they are going to match dollar for dollar on reports on the completion of the development of water on the San Diego and San Juan Rivers and the Cottonwood River, at the earliest date possible.

Mr. O.P. Heald—#3

You may be surprised to know that congress has appropriated \$547,000,000 (HR 4485) and the money is now available to be spent by the U.S. Engineers in the State of California for the building of 22 dams for domestic and irrigation purposes as well as flood control, asking in return from the State of California or the local agencies \$29,979,140. Bills have been introduced and the State will undoubtedly pass this session of the Legislature the appropriation of the \$29,979,140 above referred to. Something like 80 million will be spent in southern California and we get nothing, the rest in the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys—all San Diego County gets is \$340,000 to dredge the San Diego river from Old Town to the Ocean—all because our water resources in this county have not been carefully surveyed and recommendations made by State and Federal authorities. San Diego City has at last awakened to its foolish attitude of putting up all the money to make its own investigations, hire expert engineers and build its own dams, when as a matter of fact the State of California and the Federal government should have paid at least two-thirds of the cost of building our dams in San Diego County, but San Diego did not want to be dictated to and had too many water experts of its own. It is only recently that the conditions have so changed that the City Council of San Diego are now cooperating with the State Engineer on these matters.

Just so, you people are in the same position with a champagne appetite and a beer pocketbook. You need more than San Diego does, state and federal aid and it will be a pleasure for me to work with you in solving your water problems if you think I can be of service.

Very sincerely yours,

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 7 Folder: 16

**General Correspondence -
Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce**



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