# THE FUTURE WATER SUPPLY OF SAN FRANCISCO

FROM THE

## Conservation and Use of its Present Resources



### THE

## FUTURE WATER SUPPLY

OF

## SAN FRANCISCO

A REPORT TO

THE HONORABLE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND THE ADVISORY
BOARD OF ENGINEERS OF THE UNITED

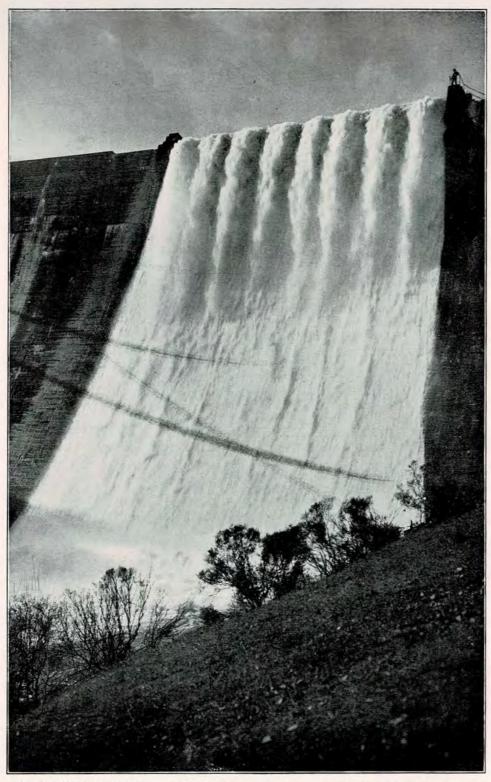
STATES ARMY

BY THE

### SPRING VALLEY WATER COMPANY

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

October 31, 1912.



OVERFLOW OF CRYSTAL SPRINGS DAM. VIEW TAKEN IN FEBRUARY, 1911.

The year 1911 was one of about normal rainfall.

### REPORT

ON THE

## SAFE, DEPENDABLE YIELD AND AVAILABILITY OF THE RESOURCES OF THE SPRING VALLEY WATER COMPANY

### Letter of Transmittal

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

#### SPRING VALLEY WATER COMPANY

375 Sutter Street

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., October 31, 1912.

The Honorable, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Advisory Board of Engineers of the United States Army, Washington, D. C.

Sirs:

In accordance with a letter from the Secretary of the Interior, dated May 28, 1912, the Spring Valley Water Company herewith presents the following reports bearing upon the adequacy of its property for furnishing San Francisco with an ample supply of water in the future, namely, by:—

Mr. Hermann Schussler, Consulting Engineer, and Mr. F. C. Herrmann, Chief Engineer, of the Spring Valley Water Company; Mr. George G. Anderson, Hydraulic Engineer of Denver, Colorado; Messrs. Wm. Mulholland and J. B. Lippincott of Los Angeles, Chief Engineer and Assistant Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles Aqueduct; Prof. J. N. Le Conte, Hydraulic Engineer of the University of California; Dr. J. C. Branner, Vice-President and head of the Department of Geology of Stanford University;

Dr. A. C. Lawson, head of the Department of Geology of the University of California; Mr. F. W. Roeding, Manager of Agriculture for the Company, and formerly Irrigation Manager of the Irrigation and Drainage Investigations of the Pacific Division, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture; and appendices of Mr. C. H. Lee, of the U. S. G. S., and Messrs. J. J. Sharon, T. W. Espy, I. E. Flaa and H. Monett, Assistant Engineers of the Company.

In another volume is presented a report by Gen. H. M. Chittenden of Seattle, who was assisted by Mr. A. O. Powell, C. E., of Seattle, which is the result of a review of the above reports, study of other data bearing upon the subject, and an investigation of conditions on the ground.

These reports are herewith submitted for your consideration.

Respectfully.

S. P. EASTMAN, Vice President & Manager Spring Valley Water Company

# PRESENT WORKS OF THE SPRING VALLEY WATER COMPANY WITH THEIR PROPOSED FUTURE EXTENSIONS

### Letter of Transmittal.

San Francisco, May 1, 1912.

Wm. B. Bourn, Esq., President of the Spring Valley Water Company.

Dear Sir:—I herewith transmit to you my report of May 1, 1912, on "The Present Works of the Spring Valley Water Company with their Proposed Future Extensions."

The two reports, which I prepared for you during the past year, namely, the report of August 19, 1911, "On the Resources of the Alameda System", and the report of November 14, 1911, "On the Water Resources of Livermore Valley", were brief digests of the respective situations, and were not encumbered by copies of a mass of statistical data, plats, surveys, cross-sections, etc., used in their preparation; as, at your request, they were to be condensed in form, and, owing to the limited time then available, these reports were to be preliminary in their nature.

My report of May 1, 1912, presented herewith, and entitled "The Present Works of the Spring Valley Water Company with their Proposed Future Extensions", outlines the company's general plan of future development of its present and proposed system.

It shows that by this proposed development, the supply capacity of its Peninsular works will, by the development of the Coast Streams, be increased from 22 million gallons, as at present, to fully 70 million gallons per day, and the supply capacity of the Alameda System, from about 16 million gallons as at present to 120 million gallons per day.

That, when required to add to its system, a practically unlimited supply of many hundreds of millions of gallons per day, a portion of the spring freshet waters of the nearby San Joaquin River, will be utilized. The utilization of the supply from the San Joaquin is only practicable by the full control and use of the large combined filtration and storage facilities of the Spring Valley Water Company's Alameda and Peninsular Division.

This report furthermore shows that by the development of the company's artesian and other properties around the southerly portion of San Francisco Bay, the large suburban boroughs of *Greater San Francisco* can easily be furnished with a supply of 50 million gallons per day, which will comfortably take care of 500,000 additional inhabitants in that region alone.

The main feature pervading the entire report of May 1, 1912, and one which cannot be too strongly emphasized, is the "Unit idea" of combining the subdivisions of the company's works into one closely connected and interlocked system, by which not only the greatest degree of water conservation will be effected, but also that one division can assist the other by either furnishing it with water or storing its surplus waters, thereby reducing waste to a minimum.

Respectfully,

H. SCHUSSLER,

Consulting Engineer of Spring Valley Water Company.

# PRESENT WORKS OF THE SPRING VALLEY WATER COMPANY WITH THEIR PROPOSED FUTURE EXTENSIONS

BY

HERMANN SCHUSSLER,

Consulting Engineer, Spring Valley Water Company.

San Francisco, May 1, 1912.

W. B. Bourn, Esq., President, Spring Valley Water Company.

Dear Sir:—The following is an outline of my views as to the best and most economical method of future development of the works of the Spring Valley Water Company.

#### The Public Misinformed.

The public, in the past and particularly during the last decade, has been persistently misinformed regarding the amount of water which can be developed on the properties owned by the Spring Valley Water Company, thus spreading the erroneous idea that the water supply obtainable from the present and proposed works of the Company would in the near future become inadequate for the needs of San Francisco. I take pleasure therefore in herewith submitting to you the following review on this subject, which deals only with the facts as they exist.

### Basic Facts Relating to United System.

In order to fully illustrate the situation it will be necessary to review not only the Company's present and future water product, but also the question of what will constitute an ample supply for San Francisco in the future.

Much has been said in the past on the latter subject, by both the City and the Company.

For the purpose of comparison I shall quote from my testimony in 1904-5 in the U. S. Circuit Court and from my affidavit of June 20, 1908, filed in the U. S. Circuit Court, in both of which my views on the subject are plainly set forth.

Before making these quotations I wish to call attention to the fact that, in order to produce and utilize under our extremely variable climatic conditions the best average results from the annual runoff of a watershed, two conditions are necessary, viz: First, that ample storage facilities are available in order to reduce waste of water during rainy seasons to a minimum while gathering the maximum runoff, and secondly, that the annual supply drawn from such storage reservoirs must be of such proportions, as to make room in the reservoirs for the runoff of the succeeding rainy season. Only by a combination of these two conditions can the waste of water be reduced to a minimum.

The water supply furnished to San Francisco during the past 50 years, which has been mainly based upon a combination of the above two conditions, fully illustrates this principle.

The Company has provided in the past and intends to provide in the future as large storage facilities on its properties as are required and as the topographical and physical conditions permit, in order that while drawing its water supply from them, to store most if not all of the runoff product of the succeeding seasons, large average and small.

From the successful experience and knowledge gained on this subject during the past forty-five years on its Peninsular Reservoir System, during which long term the Company has succeeded in reducing the waste of water from its reservoirs to a minimum, coupled with its observations and experience gathered since the season of 1889-90 regarding the runoff and storage conditions on its Alameda Creek System, studies have been made and plans have been prepared

by the Company for the gradual and fullest development of the Alameda System, and the average daily net water product that can be developed on this system has been very closely ascertained.

In many of my reports to the Company as well as in my testimony I have placed great emphasis on the principle, that in order to obtain under our variable climatic conditions the best results as to net water yield from the Company's Peninsular and Alameda Systems, it is absolutely necessary to construct and operate the respective works, and connect them with each other in such manner that both systems will form one complete unit.

Thus by providing the largest available storage facilities for the main branches of each of the two systems and by connecting both by conduits of capacity ample to convey the water from the reservoirs on the Alameda System into the large Peninsular Reservoir storage which will be provided over and above the requirements for the water product from the direct watersheds of the latter reservoirs, the waste of water from either portion of the combined system will be reduced to a minimum.

#### Works Constructed and Operated as One Closely Connected Unit.

The following quotations relating to my views on the necessity of constructing and operating the Company's properties and works as one closely connected unit are taken from my above mentioned testimony of 1904-5 in the U. S. Circuit Court:

Answer to Question No. 919:- "When in former years the water supply of San Francisco was solely drawn from the peninsula sources, the combination of these reservoirs, watersheds and water rights was always handled, managed and treated as a unit. Since then, owing to the growth of the water consumption in San Francisco, and in order to meet such growing demand, it became necessary to join the supply from Alameda Creek to that from the peninsula, and the two systems have become so intimately connected and interwoven with each other that they can neither be separated nor treated nor valued separately from each other, as they form one inseparable unit and must always be handled and valued as such."

Answer to Question 923:—"This unit idea will be still more the case and will be still

more accentuated in the future as with the constantly growing consumption the amount of water annually hereafter drawn from Alameda Creek will constantly grow in volume while serving as a feeder to the Crystal Springs reservoir, in which reservoir such waters from the Alameda Creek on their way to San Francisco will be accumulated, together with waters coming from other sources into the same reservoir. This shows that now as well as hereafter, when the works of the Company are eventually completed as contemplated, all of the properties as reservoir sites, watersheds, water rights, rights of way and works are and always will be one inseparable unit. The unity of the entire combination enables the works to furnish economical, interchangeable, constant, reliable and abundant supply of potable water."

Part of Answer 958:- "So that, at any time when required, surplus waters from the Alameda Creek System that would run to waste from the full reservoirs there if no proviso was made on this side of the bay to store such surplus waters, those surplus waters will then be run over and stored in the Crystal Springs reservoir. It is plain, therefore, that the one part of the works, the peninsula part, will then need the Alameda Creek portion for additional supply, while the Alameda Creek portion will need the peninsula system of reservoirs for assisting in the storage of its surplus waters. In that manner, by properly carrying out the very carefully devised plans in the future of gradually, as the City's demand for water grows, increasing the storage facilities on the properties of the company, and also increasing, necessarily, the conduit lines in capacity, the daily supply for San Francisco can gradually, economically, and always ahead of time be brought up to about 135,000,000 gallons a day, which is the probable consumption, as approximately estimated, in about sixty or seventy years from now."

The above quotations from my testimony very clearly and unmistakably show the method by which, and the reasons for which, the Spring Valley Water Company proposes to save most if not all of the runoff waters from both the Peninsular and the Alameda branch of its united system.

As an evidence that this plan had been adopted by the Company a number of years before my above testimony of 1904-5 was given, I will quote from my estimate furnished to the Board of Supervisors at their request, in my report to them of February 5, 1901, on the cost of gathering and storing water in Calaveras Valley (I on accompanying map) and conveying 30 million gallons per day into Crystal Springs Reservoir (XI on map), and from there to San Francisco.

(See pp. 34-35 of my report of February 5, 1901, to the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco.)

"11,700 feet Tunnel No. 1, capacity one hundred million gallons daily" (19 on map).

"120,000 linear feet, A1 American iron pipe (not steel) 46" clear diameter, capacity thirty million gallons per 24 hours" (18 on map).

"7,000 feet Tunnel No. 2 of two hundred and fifty million gallons capacity per 24 hours" (westerly end of 18 on map).

The above quotations show plainly by the large daily carrying capacity of Tunnel No. 1, (being the main westerly outlet tunnel of Calaveras Reservoir (19 on map), then planned for a capacity of 100 million gallons per day, or fully three times the daily capacity of the first 46 inch pipeline, then proposed to run from there to Crystal Springs Tunnel [T18 on map]) that tunnel 19 was intended to carry principally during rainy seasons the excess water of Calaveras Reservoir into the Crystal Springs Reservoir and thus prevent waste from the former reservoir down Calaveras Creek, or at least reduce such waste to a minimum.

The quotations furthermore show that Tunnel No. 2, the main tunnel (T 18 on map) piercing the divide between the Santa Clara Valley and Crystal Springs Reservoir, through which the first as well as future additional pipelines across Santa Clara Valley were to pour the surplus water of the Calaveras Reservoir into Crystal Springs Reservoir, being made of a capacity of 250 million gallons per day, was intended, besides carrying the water from the Coast Stream Project and other sources, to also earry the 100 million gallons per day of storm water eventually to be brought from Calaveras Reservoir via the route 19-18-T-18, the pipe capacity of line 18 meanwhile being increased up to the 100 million gallons per day capacity of Tunnel 19.

Since writing the above report of February 5, 1901, eleven years have elapsed and by a meda System during this long intervening pacity of about 12,500 million gallons for the

period, I became more than ever convinced that my original plan as shown in the above quotations from my above report of February 5, 1901, as well as in my testimony of 1904-5, furnished the most economical, practical and successful method of reducing the waste from the proposed Alameda System (when under its fullest development in the future) to a minimum.

In my report of August 19, 1911, on the resources of the Alameda System (in case the Company should decide to build the Calaveras Reservoir to a capacity of 30,000 million gallons only) I stated that the Calaveras Tunnel (19 on map) might then have to be enlarged to a daily capacity of fully 200 million gallons per day, so as to bring its daily carrying capacity to equal that of three future 60-inch pipes each of 75 million gallon daily carrying capacity.

During the rainy season and whenever there was danger of losing water by waste from the 30,000 million gallon Calaveras Reservoir the full capacity of the Calaveras Tunnel (19 on map) of say 225 million gallons per day could then be discharged through the three 60-inch pipelines (18 on map) across Santa Clara Vallev and through the Crystal Springs Tunnel (T-18 on map) into the enlarged Crystal Springs Reservoir.

The Spring Valley Water Company rather than to go to the expense of the third one of these 60" pipelines contemplates increasing the storage capacity of the Calaveras Reservoir by raising the highwater mark to 790 feet elevation above tide, thus giving it a maximum storage capacity of about 53,000 million gallons.

Thus by means of this proposed enlarged storage capacity at Calaveras and the two 60" pipelines to Crystal Springs Reservoir of a joint carrying capacity of 150 million gallons per day (or from 21/2 to 3 times the daily average water product of the Calaveras Reservoir with its feeder from the adjoining Alameda Creek watershed) the Company by using proper foresight and caution will be able to reduce the waste from the Calaveras Reservoir to a minimum, even during the severest rainy seasons recorded.

Meanwhile the two other proposed storage reservoirs for the Alameda System, viz.: On the Arroyo Valle and on the San Antonio Creeks thorough study of the potentiality of the Ala- respectively, will be constructed of a storage caArroyo Valle Reservoir with a water surface elevation of about 800 feet above tide and of a storage capacity of about 10,500 million gallons for the San Antonio Creek Reservoir, with a water surface elevation of about 445 feet above tide.

Regarding the proposed increase of the storage capacity of the Crystal Springs Reservoir on the Peninsula, in my above mentioned affidavit of June 20, 1908, filed in the U. S. District Court, p. 6, I say on this subject:

"c. The Crystal Springs of about 19,300 million gallons capacity, which latter capacity, by raising the dam twenty feet, can be easily increased to about 30,000 million gallons capacity and which capacity, by adding a northerly concrete extension to the present dam, and by raising the entire structure 43 feet above its present height of 145 feet, the capacity of the Crystal Springs Reservoir can be increased up to about 45,000 million gallons."

Based upon studies made by me on the subject during the latter part of 1911 the Spring Valley Water Company proposes to still further increase the future storage capacity of the Crystal Springs Reservoir by raising the highwater line of the Crystal Springs Reservoir to an elevation of 340 feet above tide (instead of 323 feet, as shown in the above affidavit), for which raising, the present dam is of ample cross section and strength, thereby increasing the storage capacity of the Crystal Springs Reservoir to about 58,000 million gallons.

# RECAPITULATION OF THE ULTIMATE PROPOSED STORAGE CAPACITIES OF THE COMPANY'S RESERVOIRS.

By the construction of the three proposed storage reservoirs on the Alameda Creek System, viz.: The Calaveras, Arroyo Valle and San Antonio, and by increasing the storage capacity of the Crystal Springs Reservoir as above outlined, the following total joint storage capacity will be created to which the combined runoff product of the Alameda and Peninsular Systems will be made tributary.

### PROPOSED STORAGE CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF GALLONS (ROUND FIGURES).

Alameda Creek System—	M. G.
Calaveras Reservoir	53,000
Arroyo Valle	12,500
San Antonio	10,500

Crystal Springs	58,000
To which must be added—	16. 21515
San Andreas Reservoir	6,000
Pilarcitos "	1,000
Lake Merced Reservoir, (present capacity 2500 million gallons) which can very easily and economically be enlarged by raising the lake surface between 15 and	
20 feet, to	5,000
Thus creating a proposed total storage capacity of the (3 Alameda and 4 Penin-	
sular) reservoirs combined of	146,000

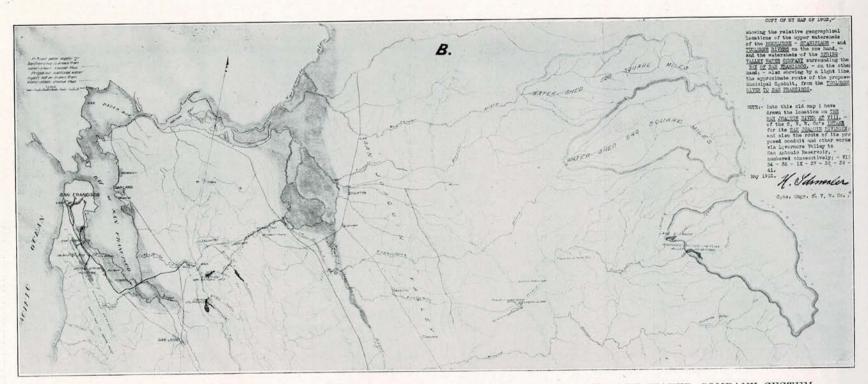
If at some time in the future Lake Merced Reservoir should be eliminated from use for domestic supply purposes then in that case the above proposed total storage capacity of the remaining six reservoirs, viz: Calaveras, Arroyo Valle and San Antonio on the Alameda Creek Branch, and Crystal Springs, San Andreas and Pilarcitos on the Peninsular Branch of the entire United System will be 141,000 million gallons, or in round figures 140,000 million gallons.

# THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRESENT AND PROPOSED RESOURCES OF THE SPRING VALLEY WATER COMPANY.

As fully shown in the first portion of this report the future development of the Company's present and proposed resources will proceed successively as the demand for water increases, while combining and operating all branches of its system as one complete unit, thus continuing the same method of operation as has been employed in the past.

For the purpose of meeting the daily requirements of San Francisco proper, culminating about the year 1950, in a minimum supply of 110,000,000 gallons per day from the combined Peninsular and Alameda Creek System alone, and without the development of the coast streams or other present or proposed resources of the Spring Valley Water Company, the Company proposed at that time to gradually develop the Alameda Branch of the system, by successively building storage reservoirs at Calaveras, San Antonio and Arroyo Valle, by which works the resources of the Company's Alameda System would have been partly increased.

The full development of the Alameda System would follow thereafter whenever required, as it was then expected that long before that period the complete ownership of the properties and rights requisite for such additions would be vested in the Company.



MAP SHOWING RELATIVE GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS OF SIERRA SYSTEMS TO SPRING VALLEY WATER COMPANY SYSTEM.

## The San Joaquin River as a Future Addition.

This latter source which I investigated from time to time since 1877 and early came to the conclusion that by using the Alameda System with its unparalleled gravel deposits acting as natural filter systems, and with its compact artesian and reservoir system lying just to the west of the San Joaquin Valley, through which latter from four to six months in spring and summer of each year a vast amount of water passes on its way from the melting snows of the Sierra to the sea, the natural next step of a successful water supply having the present Spring Valley System as a basis, would be to make the floodwaters of the San Joaquin River tributary to the filter and reservoir systems of the Alameda Creek region, and to the Crystal Springs and San Andreas Reservoirs, on the Peninsula,

Owing to the subterranean natural filtering system of the Company in both Livermore and Sunol Valleys, and owing to the facility with which the waters from the San Joaquin could either be passed through the natural filtering process in Livermore and Sunol Valleys direct, or passed partly through the filtration and artesian process of the Livermore Valley and partly (with or without the waters from Arroyo Valle Reservoir) into the San Antonio Reservoir, and from there to and through the Company's natural filtering process in operation in Sunol Valley, this proposed addition of the San Joaquin during its freshet stage, offered to the owners of the Spring Valley Water Company's properties on the Alameda System and on the Peninsula a most effective, rapid and economical addition to its works with a supply capacity of almost unlimited extent.

I was aware of the fact that at about the point VIII (See accompanying Map A) selected by me for locating the main intake on the San Joaquin River (consisting of steam or electrically driven centrifugal pumps, lifting the water from the river into a series of extensive settling basins at an elevation of between 50 and 60 feet only, above tide) that the river carried the outflow or runoff from over 5,000 square miles of Sierra Nevada watershed, the main tributary snow water feeders of which are the San Joaquin, the Merced, the Tuolumne and the Stanislaus Rivers, all known for the large

amount of water passing annually from the snow covered portions of their respective watersheds.

The location (VIII on map) which I made for the main intake station on the San Joaquin, being just below the points where the Tuolumne and Stanislaus Rivers join the former, gave great assurance of an ample water supply during the snow melting season, as the great abundance of runoff water from these four main feeders would always be a safeguard against a short supply at the point of intake.

Before proceeding with a description of the proposed method of developing the San Joaquin Branch of the system and also before touching on the proposed preliminary development of the Alameda System, and its ultimate development in connection with the San Joaquin River as a feeder, I shall quote from the records of the United States Senate Land Committee, before which, on February 12, 1909, I briefly referred to the San Joaquin River as the nearest additional large source of water supply to be connected with the present and proposed works of the Spring Valley Water Company.

I shall here quote from Page 70 et seq. of the official record of this meeting in Washington in 1909:

"Hetch Hetchy Reservoir Site. Hearing before the Committee on Public Lands, United States Senate, on the Joint Resolution (S. R. 123) to allow the City and County of San Francisco to exchange lands for reservoir sites in Lake Eleanor and Hetch Hetchy Valley, in Yosemite National Park, and for other purposes."

Question by:—Senator Smoot: Is the Sacramento River feasible?

Answer by:-Mr. Schussler: Yes, but it would be very expensive. You would have to go a long way. But there is one source probably as good as any, except that the quality has been doubted, and that is the San Joaquin River. Now, the San Joaquin River lies right to the west\* of part of our headwaters on the Alameda Creek System. I discouraged our directors years ago not to make any investment whatsoever in the Sierra Nevada, because it was too expensive, and because we could get all the water for many decades nearer home; but I have said to them: If you want to increase your water supply over and above the capacity that we can develop the works, which with the coast

<sup>\*</sup>Misprint, should be East.

streams on the Pacific Coast is somewhere in the neighborhood of 135,000,000 gallons a day,—

Senator Smoot: That is the San Joaquin? Senator Fulton: No; he says that they could develop from what they have.

Mr. Schussler: I have told them that if they wanted to go far beyond that, then they could go to the San Joaquin River, across the range, not far from our easterly boundary, and do just the same that the city proposes to do—pump the water over Livermore Pass and run it onto the Company's filter bed that we have—1300 acres of deep gravel beds, where we now filter our water.\*

Senator Smoot: Out of the San Joaquin, how much could you develop?

Mr. Schussler: One hundred and fifty million to 200,000,000 gallons a day.

Senator Newlands: Would that be less expensive?

Mr. Schussler: Very much less; but nobody could handle that comfortably unless they had the big filtration works that we have

Senator Newlands: Are those filtration works natural or artificial?

Mr. Schussler: Natural filtration works. We simply ran a tunnel underneath this prehisitoric lake bottom, which is filled with gravel, and which tunnel we have lined with concrete, and put in a good many thousand 1½-inch galvanized pipes, and through this tunnel we draw now? 14,000,000 gallons a day, which we can increase easily to 80,000,000 or 90,000,000 gallons a day.

Senator Newlands: And the filterbed

would be adequate to all requirements for the future?

Mr. Schussler: We can filter 150,000,000 to 200,000,000 gallons daily."§

As will be seen from the above quotation, when on the subject of filtering the San Joaquin water I alluded solely to the proposed enlargement of the filtering capacity of the present Sunol filterbeds, in order not to draw undue attention to the proposed extensive additional use of the San Joaquin water in the gravel beds and sinks of the Arroyo Mocho and Arroyo Valle, in Livermore Valley, which sinks are tributary to the Company's artesian belt near Pleasanton, in the westerly portion of Livermore Valley, and especially to the land-holdings on and over this artesian belt, to which the Spring Valley Water Company, since the above mentioned meeting of the Senate Land Committee, on February 12, 1909, has added many thousands of acres of artesian and other water-bearing land.

For the purpose of a clear understanding of the proposed additions to the unit-sytem of the combined Peninsular and Alameda Creek Works, I refer to the map (A), herewith, which, together with its many notes in the "Legend", will give an outline of the manner of interlacing and interconnecting of the present and future works on the Alameda branches of the Company's System, with the proposed feeder from the San Joaquin above alluded to.

<sup>\*</sup>The Sunol Filterbeds. †Early in 1909.

<sup>\$(</sup>Through the Sunol Filterbed System, when properly enlarged and extended southwesterly and provided with a sufficient number of lateral branch galleries similar to the present ones.)