AN ANALYSIS TO DETERMINE THE SAFE YIELD OF THE WATER ERESOURCES OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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Thesis by Munson W. Dowd, In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, 1946

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Introduction

As is indicated in the following report, the safe yield of the water resources of San Diego County is definitely limited. Proposals for future expansion indicate increased yield, but they are expensive and their benefits limited. The City of San Diego has thus of necessity turned to an outside source, the Colorado River, as an adequate supply for the future. A pipeline is at present under construction from the Metropolitan Aqueduct to supplement the present system.

This study is based principally on data and figures found in the various reports enumerated in the bibliography. The subject is a very large one, which to be adequately covered would require voluminous amounts of data and much more time than is available. However, a general survey of the conditions prevailing in San Diego County and the approximate safe yields of all major rivers is included. It is suggested that any further investigations be made for yields of single rivers in order that thorough analyses can be conducted.

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A. G **neral** Physiography of Sen Diego County.

In **general,** San Diego County **ia** divided into two major drainage areas, the east and the **west.** The rainfall on the **eastern** one-third flows into the Imperial Valley and the Gulf of Lower California. The runoff from the western two-thirds of the County, with which this report is concerned, constitutes the major portion of the total and natural drainage channels carry it into the ocean.

The western pert of the county is divided again into two regions,. the narrow coastal belt and the mountainous highland. This upper area slopes up gradually from the coastal belt to the summit of the mountains, dropping off rather steeply on the east to form the other drainage area already mentioned. This highland· area whioh extends far down into Mexioo appears to **be** a huge blook or the earth's orust whioh has been broken and lifted on its eastern side. In many ways it resembles the Sierra Nevada mountains to the north but the amount of uplift and tilting has been much less.

The coastal belt consists principally of a series of relatively high, flat topped benches or terraces through which the various streams out on their way from the highlands to the ocean. These terraces, formed by the sea during numerous geological eras, terminate at the Pacific Ocean in a line of cliffs. The cliffs are characteristic of the entire ooastline except for the area in the immediate vicinity of San Diego Bay. As a result of the Spanish influence, the series of terraces are called "mesas", some having received individual names as Otay Mesa which lies between the Tia Juana and Otay Rivers, and Linda Vista Mesa which extends from the San Diego River to the Los Penasquitos River.

The major streams whioh intersect these mesas are wide, flat bottomed and are bounded by steep slopes which vary to several hundred feet in height. Major streams are so called because they carry most of the

water and head in the highland area. Minor streams which arise on the mesas themselves are geologically young and their channels are short narrow gashes which terminate in either a major stream valley or the ocean.

Since these major valleys play a large part in this analysis, a further discussion of them should be well worthwhile. Explicitly the valleys are those occupied by the (starting from the north) Santa Margarita, San Luis Rey, San Dieguito, San Diego, Sweetwater, Otay, and Tia Juana Rivers.

Santa Margarita Valley, which as a valley starts halfway between Home Ranch and Deluz Station where the River leaves its rock gorge, is about one half mile wide and ten miles long. Its average gradient is roughly ten feet per mile. About three miles east of the San Luis Rey M1.ssion, the River of the same name leaves its gorge in the highland area and enters a flat bottomed valley about three hundred feet below the terraces. It is eight miles long with an average gradient of eleven feet per mile. The San Dieguito River Valley runs from a point six miles from the River's mouth to the ocean. It has a grade of only seven feet per mile and a width of half a mile. Mission Valley, along the San Diego River, extends from the gorge west of Cowles Mountain westward to Mission Bay, a distance of eight miles. It varies in width from one-third to three-fifths of a mile and has a slope of eleven feet per mile. Sweetwater Valley has the same characteristics as the others with steep clifflike walls one hundred to three hundred feet high, a. length of eight miles and a width of one-fourth to one-half mile. It ends in San Diego Bay. Otay Valley also ends in San Diego Bay, extending due west from the base of Otay Mountain. It is very steep with a slope of twenty five feet per mile and does not have the characteristic flat bottom of the other valleys but slopes steeply from the base of the bluffs on each side of the stream channel. Tia Juana Valley is

again very much like the others but differs in that some of it is in Mexico. It crosses the international boundary at Tia Juana and extends westward six miles to the ocean. It is bordered by cliffs four hundred feet high during part of its length but these diminish to low slopes of only twenty five feet. In general the valley floor is flat with a width of one mile and a slope toward the ocean of eight feet per mile.

These various features of the stream valleys are due to the characteristics of the arid region and to the alternate rising and sinking of the land. In an arid country such as this, the streams which rise in the mountains sometimes carry large volumes of water which rush to the ocean eroding the valley walls. For other periods, however, there are a number of dry years when very little flow reaches the ocean, the majority sinking into the river bed. The fact that this coastal region is lower than it was at some past time also affects the physical characteristics of the valleys since they were eroded much deeper than they are at present and have since filled in. This tends to make the walls very steep and forms a basin for storage of water.

The highland area lies east of the coastal belt, extending eastward from the highest mesas to the boundary of the area covered in this analysis. Like the coastal belt, this region has been subjected to repeated raising and lowering but has not actually been below sea level since early geologic time.

The mountains of the highland area belong to what is known as the "Peninsular" Range since it forms the backbone of the peninsula of Lower California. In its northern extremities, the Peninsular Range intersects the San Jacinto and San Bernardino Ranges. There is little regularity in the distribution of the high peaks, that is, they don't lie in ranges. In the northeastern part of the watershed included in this study, elevations of six thousand feet are not uncommon and the general elevation in

the eastern half is over three thousand feet above sea level. However, the western half varies from five hundred to fifteen hundred feet above sea level with only a few peaks around three thousand feet.

The southern slopes of the mountains are ordinarily nearly barren of vegetation but the northern slopes are covered by various types of brush and trees such as chaparral, live oak, pine, etc. In many of the mountain slopes and valleys grazing is excellent.

Highland Basins.

It is believed that at one time this highland area had been eroded to a peneplane but subsequent uplift brought on additional stream erosion which caused the present geographical features. There was also a large amount of faulting which took place, lifting some blocks of the earth's crust above others and thus forming the mountains. Also, faulting fractured rocks in many places making them more easily worn away by streams.

Many square miles of the highland area are covered by large flat tracts which are referred to as highland basins. Of these, El Cajon Valley. Santa Maria Valley, and Warner's Valley are typical examples. El Cajon Valley, which is about halfway from the head of the San Diego River to the sea, forms a nearly square basin extending six miles in a direction perpendicular to the River and Five miles along it. The River valley above and below is less than one-fourth mile wide. The floors of the valleys are comparitively smooth, sloping gently toward sthe stream. In general, the alluvial cover is thin near the stream but amay be thirty or more feet in thickness at the borders of the basin. afhe underlying granite is thoroughly disintegrated at the surface but abscomes firmer with depth until it is solid at depths of from fifty to cons hundred feet. In places the granite outcrops at the surface.

These highland basins are divided into three belts in accordance

with their geographical distribution. The first or lower belt includes Fallbrook Plain, El Cajon, and several other valleys. The intermediate basins include Bear Valley and Santa Maria Valley, and the third belt or higher basins includes Warner's and San Felipe Valleys.

B. Precipitation and Runoff.

All waters in the County are derived of course from the precipitation on the included ground area. Part of the water which falls as rain or snow is lost by evaporation. Another part percolates into the soil to ultimately reach the water table or be lost in transpiration from plants, and the remainder joins the surface runoff of which a part reaches the ocean. During the past years, particularly the last thirty, a series of dams have been constructed on most of the major rivers to act as a source of water supply for the County and for the city of San Diego. This impounding of water, often for long periods, presents surfaces to the atmosphere from which fifty to seventy five inches of water evaporate per year. The large quantities involved will be discussed later.

Most of the precipitation occurring in San Diego County is due to cyclonic storms or "lows" from the Worth Pacific Ocean that appear off the coasts of Alaska, British Columbia, and the northern United States. These lows have a general easterly movement as they reach the continent but many are deflected southward. The frequency and intensity of the rains occurring in the County depend upon the number of lows deflected south and the degree of deflection. If a large percentage of the lows are deflected to the south, a wet season ensues. If only a few lows arrive, the season is dry. Thus the rainfall is largely controlled by the general movement of these storms which bring about ninety per cent of San Diego County's rainfall. 介める

Amother type of storm comes upon San Diego from the southwest.

This type moves slowly, sometimes remaining stationary over southern California and Arizona for several days. During most winters, however, only one or two of these storms yield any precipitation over San Diego County.

In addition to these two types of storms, local thunder showers occur over the higher mountains in July and August. These seldom reach the coast and their duration is very limited. Thus they have very little effect on the total annual precipitation.

The fourth type of storm is known as a "sonora" since it reverses the ordinary storm movement and traverses from Sonora, Mexico, accompanied by northerly and northeasterly winds. This storm which is cyclonic in character extends over large areas and occurs chiefly in the summer. It is of infrequent occurrence, however, and has little influence on the total precipitation. Most of the contributions of the "sonoras" percolate into the ground.

Very little of the precipitation occurs as snow, although some usually falls in the higher mountain areas during every winter. However, only on the most protected slopes of the highest mountains does the snow remain for more than a few days.

Records of precipitation for several stations in San Diego County are available for over sixty years, but the detailed records presented in this report on pages A-32 to A-34 include only the period from nineteen hundred to the present. The data was obtained from statistics of the United States' Neather Bureau.

Since the precipitation in San Diego County is extremely irregular, being subject to wide deviations, the mean has very little significance for any particular year or station, making short term averages of small value. As shown by the curve on page A-35, in which comparisons of rainfall with the sixty five year average are shown, it is concluded that the

average of a twenty five year record differed only 4.6% from that of the longer period. This curve was made by dividing the period of record at San Diego into subdivisions of three, five, ten, etc. to sixty years each. The average annual precipitation for each of the periods was calculated and again averages found for periods of equal length. A plot was then made of per cent variation from the sixty five year average $v.s.$ duration of the record in years. From the curve it can be seen that the average of a record of only five years can be expected to vary 16% from the sixty five year average.

The distribution of precipitation by days, months, and years affects materially the available water supply in San Diego County. In this report, since only the more general phases of ground and surface water are considered, the annual precipitation and runoff only are presented.

Of interest however, **are** the bar charts presented on page A-2 which show the percentage of annual rainfall occuring during each month for six stations in the County. It will be noted that in all cases most of the rainfall ocours during the winter months of December, January, February, and March. June is without exception the month of low rainfall with the other summer months only slightly better. In the mountain areas, particularly Campo, local thunder storms occur during the summer.

Variations in annual precipitation are diagrammed by means of a bar graph on page $A-3$ for nine important stations. The records are of varying length depending upon the data available. The years are plotted horizontally and the departuresfrom the average, either plus or minus, are shown by the vertical scale. The two most striking facts indicated by these charts are (1) there is a pronounoed irregularity of rainfall, only a few years being near average, and (2) there is a tendency for wet or dry years to occur in cycles. Of these two observations the second is the more important in considerations of the safe yield of underground and

reservoir water supplies. For example, as will be discussed later, the safe yield of Sweetwater Reservoir is determined by a drouth period extending from 1898 to 1905. Since then the drouth periods have been of shorter duration and thus safe yields have been much larger.

A knowledge of geographic distribution of precipitation is important in connection with studies of both ground and surface waters. Ground water supply as well as that in reservoirs is replenished annually by rainfall on and above the area considered.

The horizontal distribution of rainfall in San Diego County is typical for regions in which a mountain range parallels the ocean from which cyclonic storms approach. The slope leading up to the crest of the range elevates the whole body of moisture-laden air during its movements, inducing more rapid condensation of moisture as a result of the cooling and expansion which occurs. As soon as the air reaches the crest and starts down the opposite slope, condensation of moisture stops as a result of compression and increased temperature. This same phenomenon occurs on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains but the rainfall zone is from 3,000 to 5,500 feet above sea level, the amount decreasing at a higher level. Since San Diego County mountains reach an altitude of only 6000 feet, the maximum rainfall occurs at the peaks.

This altitude variation is shown in striking fashion by the curve of average annual rainfall v.s. altitude presented on page A-4. For the stations which have a rainfall which is inconsistent with the curve shown, there is usually an explanation possible by consideration of local conditions. As also indicated by this curve, the stations located to the east of the first range have a precipitation which is less than that at a comparable altitude on the west. This is readily explainable by consideration of the fact that storms approach from the west. The diagrams On page A-5 which were taken from the United States Geological Survey **Water Supply paper 446 indicate the close relationship between ground**

slope and precipitation. In general, rainfall varies from ten inches on the coast to forty inches in the mountains.

A further characteristic of rainfall study well worth mentioning is the relationship between the variations of runoff and precipitation. The diagram on page A-7 showing annual variation of runoff when compared to that of rainfall, page A-6, indicates that runoff follows the same pattern as rainfall but is subject to wider seasonal fluctuations, the maximum rate being two and one-half to three times the normal and the minimum being zero or thereabouts. From the rainfall curves it can be seen that the maximum is about 150% and the minimum about 40% of normal.

The relation between daily runoff and precipitation is very interesting. In general, although precipitation of some magnitude begins in November, it is almost January before a flood runoff occurs, after about one-fifth to one-fourth of the average season's rainfall has occurred. This lag in runoff is due to the lack of moisture in the ground when the rains begin. The rainfall is so small during the summer and autumn that the ground becomes very dry and can absorb a large quantity of water before any runoff occurs. This is of course true of the alluvium in the valleys as well as the thin but videspread surface materials in other parts of the drainage areas. After sufficient rain has fallon to saturate or partially saturate the surface materials, any additional runs off. The converse of this phenomenon occurs in the spring and part of the summer after the rains when the streams continue to flow, fed by groundwater. It is very difficult to obtain a figure relating the amount of rainfall necessary to cause runoff since so many factors enter the picture such as amount of rainfall during the preceeding year and intensity of the early rains. Although some work has been done on this subject, the detailed analysis will add mothing to this report. The typical example of the San Diego River at the diverting dam as related in Water Supply Paper 446 indicates the trends in all cases considered.

The average depth of precipitation, in inches, required to produce runoff the first year after a year with less than 90% of average rainfall, or second year after one with 70% or less, is 8.5 inches. This drops to 5.3 inches for a year following one with 90 to 110 % of average precipitation. After a year with over 110% of sverage rainfall, only 3.1 inches of rain are required to produce runoff. The exact figures vary depending on the type of material the water traverses but as mentioned, trends are the same.

The percent of precipitation appearing as runoff varies considerably in the areas included in this report. The table on page A-8 presents summaries of this data for a few points on the various watersheds. The principal value of this table as far as determination of safe yield is concerned is purely negative in that it indicates what cannot be done. In view of the large amount of variation in runoff as compared to precipitation, from zero to 23%, calculation of runoff by the product of rainfall, area, and a runoff coefficient is not justifiable. The error would probably be several hundred percent either way depending upon many complex factors.

In summary, the annual precipitation in San Diego County varies from about ten inches near the coast to forty five inches in the mountains. The increase is about 0.55 inches for each 100 feet of increase in altitude. East of the first high range of mountains, the rainfall decreases as indicated by the curve on page A-4 until it is eighteen to twenty inches in the mountain valleys and second range of mountains.

C. Evaporation.

At several places in San Diego County records have been kept of evaporation from the surfaces of large bodies of water. The earliest records were those taken on Sweetwater Reservoir in 1889. Data was recorded from this reservoir until 1895 after which nothing was done until

the period from 1915 to 1921. Other data has been taken at La Hesa Keservoir, Cuyamaca Reservoir, and several others. Table A-9 presents the mean evaporation values as obtained by the floating pan method. Some data was taken at Sweetwater by means of a Piche Evaporometer located in a lattice house fifteen feet above ground and forty feet above the lake surface. These results indicated a magnitude of about $48/57$ of that recorded by the surface pans which were probably more nearly correct. Evaporations reported were the gross values, corrections being made for rainfall entering the pans.

The monthly variation of evaporation is of interest although of more detail than is necessary for this report. The values as presented in the curve on page A-9 show that as would be expected the bulk of evaporation takes place during the warm summer months. There is a possibility that the depth of water lost from a floating pan during the summer may be greater than that from a reservoir, since the small quantity of water in the pan would attain a higher temperature than a lake. However, experiments and observations indicate that very little difference exists since water temperatures in the pan exceed those in the lake by only one or two degrees F. during the heat of the day.

Thus the evaporation from a reservoir surface varies from about fifty five inches near the coast to seventy six inches in the high and dry valleys. Variations in annual evaporation appear to be small but during each year monthly records show that the warm months are responsible for most of the evaporation. In the discussion of losses from reservoirs, annual losses due to evaporation are assumed, but are based on a comparison with records available.

Of equal interest is the evaporation or water loss from the soil. The relation between losses from water surfaces and soil is not direct, however, since many factors affect the latter. Loss from soil depends

supon the depth to the zone of saturation, the capillary rise of the soil, and the kind and quantity of plants growing on the soil. Capillary forces \sim bring water to the surface from depths of from four to nine feet depending upon the character of the soil. If the water table is below nine feet, no water is lost by this means, but transpiration by plants is nevertheless effective. If the soil is permanently saturated, the loss by evaporation is approximately that found for an open water surface.

In Water Supply Paper 446, the average annual absorption of the fill in San Luis Rey Valley is stated as being 14,450 acre feet. The total land from which losses can occur is 6,640 acres, the remainder having a water table too low to be affected by capillarity. Since the annual absorption is equal to the average annual loss, the average absorption was -divided by the land area, and an average depth of water lost was determined to be 2.19 feet per year from ground water surfaces. This value of 2.19 feet is approximately correct for all of the major valleys of San $\frac{1}{2} \mathcal{B} \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{A}} = \mathcal{C} \mathcal{B}^{-1} \mathcal{B}^{-1} \mathcal{B}^{-1} \mathcal{B} \mathcal{B}^{-1} \mathcal{$ Diego County.

D. Ground aters.

It is convenient to divide San Diego County into seven areas for discussion of ground waters. They are (1) Major valleys of six largest streams. (2) minor valleys of the coastal belt, (3) minor valleys of the highland area, (4) Nestor and Chula Vista sea terraces adjacent to San Diego Bay, (5) interstream areas underlain by Tertiary formations, (6) highland areas underlain by crystalline rocks not covered by residuum, and (7) highland areas in gently sloping and level parts in which crystalline rocks are overlain by water-borne materials.

Although the first group constitutes only a small part of the area of the County, it is by far the most important as a source of water. The other areas possess a larger quantity of stored ground water but are not capable of yielding large quantities at any one point, although small

but reliable supplies are obtained. Since the major valleys are the prinsipal source of ground water, net safe yield calculations will be limited to them.

The major valleys have previously been discussed in connection with $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sum_{i=1}^N\frac{1}{2}$ the physiography. They are the narrow, flat-bottomed valleys extending from the coast twenty to twenty five miles inland bordering the principal streams of San Diego County. The streams traversing the major valleys are (from north to south), Santa Margarita, San Luis Rey, San Dieguito, San Diego, Sweetwater, and Tia Juana Rivers. The valleys trend in general northeast to southwest and are from three to fifteen miles apart. These valleys head in the highland area, traverse the mesas and open onto the ocean. It is the unconsolidated alluvial material that underlies the floors of these valleys which contains the ground water.

Although as mentioned, these major valleys are comparatively small in area, they are among the most valuable assets of San Diego County, since without their water the mesas and thickly populated parts of the County would be lacking an important source of water supply. Although water stored in reservoirs constitutes a major part of the water supply of San Diego City. for example, ground water is used continuously and can be heavily drawn upon in cases of smergency.

the The major stream valleys consist of two separate groups, as previously mentioned. the coastal valleys and the highland valleys which are inland. The coastal valleys are Santa Margarita Valley below Deluz station, San Luis Rey Valley below Guajome Ranch, San Dieguito Valley, Mission Valley (on the San Diego River), Sweetwater Valley below Sweetwater Dam, and Tia Juana Valley. The aggregate area of all of these valleys is 17,500 acres. The highland valleys lying along the major streams are the Upper San Luis Rey between the east boundary of the Pala Indian Reservation and Bonsall, the upper San Diego Valley on the San Diego River from El Cajon to Old

Mission Dam, and the Delsea and Jamacho Valleys on the Sweetwater River. The total aggregate area of these valleys is 10.540 acres.

The soils of all of the valleys are composed of sand and silt derived meinly from the granitic rocks of the highland area and the Tertiary formations of the coastal belt. Before they were settled these valleys supported growths of willow, cottonwood, and underbrush. The surface of the coastal area is gently undulating with underlying formations consisting largely of gravel and sand interbedded with clay. During the rainy weather little but grass grows.

The water in these valleys is stored much as in surface reservoirs since the surrounding rocks are practically impervious. The rocks of the highland area are dense and contain only a little water in the fissures. However, well logs show that the impervious formations underlie the valleys at depths nowhere exceeding 215 feet. Above this impervious base is the alluvial fill, composed of silt, sand, and gravel which is very porous. The water for this fill is derived by absorption of surface runoff and rainfall. Water escapes from these basins by seeping into the stream channels, by underflow through the fill into lower basins, by evaporation from the surface, or by transpiration from plants. Thus water is stored in the underground basins much as in surface reservoirs, with the water level or water table rising or falling depending upon the rate of use v.s. the rate of replenishment.

As a necessary prerecuisite to the investigation of safe yield is a more thorough discussion of each of the valleys concerned, the porosity of its fill, the depth to which the water table can be lowered, etc.

The following is a table showing the basic quantities required for determination of the safe yield of ground water in the major valleys. The values given were taken from Water Supply Paper 446 published by the United States Geological Survey.

The principal error in this table is probably in the percent volume that could be drained. This is a function of porosity and percent of the pore water is available. It would take many samples of the soils from all depths to ascertain this quantity at all accurately. The studies made by the U.S.G.S. in this connection were not too complete.

Thus roughly 130,000 acre feet of water are available in San Diego County from underground sources in the major valleys. By installation of a sufficient quantity of pumps, this amount could probably be used in one year. Or, it might be maintained to be used only in periods of emergency. The safe yield of this source then depends upon the rate with which replenishment will take place.

Before dams were constructed on the major rivers, it was simple to determine the water available for replenishment, but at present much of the

flow is stored by reservoirs or diverted for irrigation or city water. Thus the question arises as to how much water could be replaced during drought years and how long the drought might last. The records available for the Sweetwater River, which go back farther than any of the others given, indicate that the longest drought period was six years. During this time very little water flowed in the River. After this six years, however, a quantity of water in excess of average was available. This would not mean, of course, that no water would enter the underground supplies during that time, but it does mean that rainfall was small. All water not lost by evaporation or transpiration percolated into the ground. In view of the rainfall data for the drought period in the few years at the turn of the century, (see page A-14) only three consecutive years were much below average and the fourth, 1901, was almost average. There was little or no runoff in the streams however, since ground water supplies were being replenished. **~hue** -in a drought, ground _water is replaoed before much stream flow occurs. It **seems** reasonable and conservative to assume that the drought period during which there would be no replacement of ground water $($ to make results more conservative) would not be over four years in duration. In addition, it is reasonable to assume that after these four **years** ground water supplies will be baok to normal before another four year drought ensues. Scrutiny of each set of data indicates that these assumptions are on the conservative side and are therefore satisfactory in estimation of the safe yield. The net safe yield would thus be (see table page 15) $129,600$ $7.28.5$ million gallons per day. **4 X 365 X** 2 ~ **l.55**

The breakdown among the various valleys is as follows:

An analysis of this problem as to how much water is replaced each year in underground basins is complicated, and only approximate solutions based on assumptions are possible. This is especially the case when reservoirs are built upstream and effects therefrom on underground supplies downstream are practically unknown.

E. Surface Water.

Investigation of the safe yield of surface water is basically a study of the reservoirs which have been constructed on each river. Without these reservoirs, the safe yield of streams in San Diego County would be zero because they all have periods of no flow which sometimes last for months or even years. Then there is only one reservoir on a stream the safe yield can be determined rather easily. However, when several reservoirs are existent and the waters are emptied from the upper into the lower. determination of yield becomes very difficult. It is impossible to distinguish the natural flow intering the lower reservoir from the water released from the upper storage. This can only be attained from very detailed reservoir release, inflow, and outflow records which are beyond the scope of this report.

The net safe yield of each reservoir which is at the head of a stream with only natural flow entering can be approximated as follows (see page A-26): First calculate the gain or loss in reservoir storage based on inflow with evaporation from the maximum water surface at all times. Evaporation is estimated from records at several reservoirs already mentioned. After the gain or loss for the years has been found, a mass diagram is constructed for the net flow into the reservoir. This is plotted assuming evaporation from the maximum reservoir area. A straight line representing constant outflow is then constructed on the mass diagram. In no instance can this line be a distance above the mass curve which is more than the total capacity of the reservoir in question. The slope of the line represents the maximum constant flow which can be directed from the reservoir without emptying it completely. Another set of calculations has been carried out taking into account the lowering of the reservoir water surface and consequent decrease in evaporation. The line of maximum constant flow obtained in this latter case is then a very close approximation to the safe yield of the reservoir.

Each major river of San Diego County will be discussed in turn, starting at the north with the Santa Margarita kiver and ending at the south with the Tia Juana.

The Santa Margarita River.

Temecula Creek, as the Santa Margarita is known at its head, rises on the western slope of the san Jacinto Mountains in the northwestern part of San Diego County, just north of the San Luis Rey River basin. It flows north into Riverside County, then west fifteen miles to Temecula where it turns to flow southwest through Temecula Canyon into San Diego County and subsequently into the ocean. The highest elevation in the basin is 5.500 feet on the divide between Temecula and San Luis Rey. Temecula Creek has few tributaries. The topography of the country through which it flows is rather broken but there are several valleys in its upper reaches. The annual precipitation ranges from ten inches at the ocean to thirty inches in the highland area, falling principally in the form of rain. Discharge is heavy during the spring flood season but light during the rest of the year.

Table A-10 is a record of the annual runoff of the Santa Margarita River. Diversions from the River are in the form of pumping, wells, and direct flow. As is indicated in the table, the O'Neill ditch, which is one of the principal diversions, takes an average of about 2500 acre feet of water annually.

There are no dams on the Hiver but three are projected according to a report issued by the City of San Diego in 1923. The total storage would be 450,000 acre feet with an estimated safe yield of $20,000,000$ gallons per day. The data available is not sufficient to permit a check of these figures.

The San Luis Rey River.

The San Luis Rey River drains about 566 st quare miles of territory lying wholly in northern San Diego County and extending from the Coast Range to the Pacific Ocean, a distance of sixty five miles. The maximum width of the drainage area is about sixteen miles.

The River is formed by many small streams which head in the higher elevations and join at the lower end of Warner's Valley. From here, the atream flows through ten miles of deep narrow canyon with a heavy grade. then over a sandy and gravelly bed with a light grade for some forty miles until it discharges into the Facific Ocean at Oceanside.

The highest point in the watershed is Palomar Mountain at 6.126 feet. The upper portion of the drainage area is rolling with several cultivated valleys. In general the basin is poorly forested, most of the vegetation being brush.

The mean precipitation varies from ten to fifty inches, depending upon the altitude as already mentioned. The runoff data is given on page $A-11.$

At present there is only one major reservoir in operation on the River, and that is Lake Henshaw, with a capacity of 203,000 acre feet, located near karner's hot Springs. The safe yield for this reservoir is. given by the tables and curves on pages A-16 to A-19 inclusive. The method used for determination of the safe yield was as described on pages 17 and 18. Galculations were first made to determine the safe yield assuming a maximum possible evaporation each year. Using the safe yield found and assuming it as a constant outflow, evaporation loss was adjusted as the reservoir lowered. Rainfall was of course added as a gain in reservoir capacity. Since complete rainfall data was not available at sarner's Hot Springs, it was necessary to make a comparison with the more complete record for Mesa Grande. The exact storage-area curve for Lake Henshaw was not available but the maximum water surface area was known. The curve was therefore approximated for evaporation calculations. That the approximation was of sufficient accuracy is evident, since the safe yield of 14.8 m.g.d. found checked very well with the data given in the 1923 report

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of the city of San Diego.

The only other reservoir in addition to Henshaw is the one operatad by the city of Escondido. It has a capacity of 3,000 acre feet and a safe yield of 1.0 m.g.d.

There are two additional projected reservoirs on the San Luis Rey River at Monserate and Bonsall with a combined storage of 300.000 acre

et and a safe yield of 15 m.g.d. as given by the San Diego City report $1923.$

Thus the total safe yield on the San Luis Rey River is now 15.8 m.g.d. ind in the future it will be 30.8 m.g.d.

The San Dieguito River.

The San Dieguito River, or Santa Ysabel Creek, as it is sometimes known, rises in the Volean Mountains on the western slope of the Coast Range and flows westward through San Pasqual Valley, discharging into the ocean midway between Oceanside and San Diego. It has a drainage area of \$40 square miles, is fifty miles long, and has a basin of fifteen miles maximum width.

The upper basin is very rough with many canyons. About halfway to the ocean is San Pasqual Valley in which some irrigation is carried on.

At present there is only one reservoir, Lake Hodges, in operation on the San Dieguito River. It has a capacity of 37,700 acre feet and a minimum net safe yield of 8.1 m.g.d. as determined by the calculations on pages A-20 to A-23 inclusive. These calculations were based on the data given in U.S.G.S. records and a report of the California Department of Wublic Works, Bulletin No. 5, "Flow in California Streams". The first **Series** is based on the period of 1924 to the present, the second on the period from 1897 to 1906 during a time of severe drought. This minimum found is more than the 5.6 m.g.d. value as given in the report by Ready

Hill, and Buwalda. This disagreement is probably caused by insufficient data as to losses and diversions upstream. Since Lake Hodges is on the lower reaches of the San Dieguito River, variations in flow could be large.

The other reservoirs proposed on the San Dieguite kiver are Sutherland and Famo with a combined storage of 113,000 acre feet and a safe yield of 10.0 m.g.d. as given by the city of San Diego report. A check of this safe yield is not possible since sufficient data are not available.

The San Diego River.

.... The San Diego River rises in the Cuyamaca Mountains on the western slope of the Coast Range. It flows to the southwest, discharging into the Pacific Ocean at Mission Bay after traversing a channol about fifty miles in length. Several small tributaries, Coleman, Cedar, and Boulder Greeks all enter from the east and south above Lakeside. California. Sen Vincente Creek joins the main stream at Lakeside. About half of the River lies above Lakeside in territory which is rough with numerous valleys and areas of high mesa land. The highest peak in the vatershed is Cuyamaca with an elevation of 6,028 feet.

Irrigation is carried on extensively in the area between Lakeside $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ and San Diego, making stream flows recorded downstream rather questionable. There are two principal reservoirs on the River. They are Cuyamaca with a storage of 11,000 acre feet and a safe yield of 0.9 m.g.d., and El Capitan Reservoir with a storage of 116,400 acre feet and a safe yield of 11.6 m.g.d. Two more reservoirs are proposed for the San Diego River. They are San Vincente and Mission with storages of 174,500 and 79,200 acre feet respectively. The safe yields are not given specifically in the report by Ready, Hill, and Buwalda, but the completed system will have a net safe yield of 29 m.g.d.

San Vincente and Mission are impossible to calculate for safe vield because of lack of data. The safe yield for El Capitan, however, can be checked by assuming a steady and maximum diversion at Cuyamaca exactly equal to the safe yield of 0.9 m.g.d.

The total safe yield from the San Diego River reservoirs will be considered as 29 million gallons per day for the future and 12.5 m.g.d. at present.

The Tia Juana River.

The major portion of the Tia Juana River and its watershed lie in $\mathcal{F} \leftarrow$ Mexico. However, Cottonwood Creek, its principal tributary, rises in the United States in the Laguna Mountains. Cottonwood Creek joins Pine Valley Greek and flows southwest until it joins the Tia Juana about twenty miles from the ocean. The River then empties into the sea just south of San Diego in the United States. The drainage basin of Cottonwood Creek covers 340 square miles.

al. The topography of the Cottonwood basin is rough, although there are some mountain valleys at 3000 feet. The basin is poorly forested with some pines and live oaks. Most of the vegetation is brush.

The safe yield data for this river is impossible to develop without very detailed data, because (1) the principal drainage area is located in Mexico, and (2) Cottonwood Creek, the United States' branch, has two dams on it. Mexico has placed a dam scross its bronch of the Tia Juana River to further complicate matters. Also, the water from the two dams, Morena and Barrett, on Cottonwood Creek, is diverted from the drainage area by the Dulzura conduit and flows into Otay Reservoir on the Otay River.

Morena Reservoir, with a capacity of 67,200 acre feet, has a safe yield of ℓ . O m.g.d. Barrett Dam, with a capacity of 42,800 sore feet, has a safe yield of 4.8 m.g.d. It is proposed in the future to enlarge Barrett Reservoir to 133,000 acre feet, thus increasing its safe yield to

9.3 m.g.d.

The total safe yield for Cottonwood Creek is thus 9.8 m.g.d. now but will be 14.3 m.g.d. in the future.

Other Rivers., and Summary.

There are a number of minor streams and stream valleys in San Diego County, but there are no data at present to justify the assigning of any safe yields. The only exception is the Otay River on which is the Otay Reservoir. Otay Reservoir has a capacity of 56,300 acre feet and a net safe yield of 3.8 m.g.d. Water for this reservoir is diverted from the Tia Juana River watershed as previously mentioned.

Table A-32 is a summary of the safe yield of the water resources of San Diego County, at present and in the future.

It will be noted from the table that the safe yield of ground water will be less in the future than it is now. That is because of the fact that installation of a complete series of dams on each river will restrics. eliminate a large amount of the runoff which replaces the water tables in the major valleys. It is estimated that the safe yield of ground water will be cut down about one third in the future.

Bibliography

 $4.$

 $6.$

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- 3. "Geology and Ground Waters of the Western Part of San Diego County, California", United States Geological Survey, Water-Supply Paper 446, Arthur J. Ellis and Charles H. Lee.
	- "Flow in California Streams", Bulletin No. 5, California Department of Public Works.

United States Weather Bureau Records for Rainfall. $5.$

United States Geological Survey Fater Supply Papers for Stream Flow Data.

Exit

HINHA

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HATH

RUNOFF AS PERCENTAGE OF PRECIPITATION

 $A - 7$

* Same as San Dieguito River.

From U.S.G.S. Water Supply Paper 446

EVAPORATION FROM FREE WATER SURFACE TOTAL AVERAGE AND PERCENT BY MONTHS

CUYAMACA RESERVOIR A Hitude = 4,620 FF Annual Evap. = 76 Inches (Average)

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5

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5

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RUNOFF (ANNUAL)

SANTA MARGARITA RIVER BASIN

A-10

USGS Data

O'Neill ditch is diversion from River.

RUNOFF (ANNUAL) SAN LUIS REY RIVER BASIN

Lake Henshaw completed 1923

Data for Pala from Calif. Dept. of Public Works Other data U.S.G.S.

RUNOFF (ANNUAL) SAN DIEGUITO RIVER BASIN

RUNOFF (ANNUAL) SAN DIEGO RIVER BASIN

RUNOFF (ANNUAL) SWEETWATER RIVER BASIN

 $A - 14$

RUNOFF (ANNUAL) TIA JUANA RIVER BASIN

 $Notes-$

1. Cottonwood Creek Into Morena Res. 2. Flow from Barrett Reservoir. 3. Flow into Tia Juana from Cottonwood Creek 4. Flow at mouth. 5. Very small 6. Flow out of Morena. 7. Diversion from Cottonwood Creek between 2 and 3.

 $A - 15$

MASS FLOW DATA

Lake Henshaw-Maximum Area for Evaporation.

 $A - 16$

Water Surface Area= 4,000 Acres.

HENSHAW RESERVOIR AUXIALIARY CURVES FOR SAFE YIELD OETERMINATION

APPROXIMATE STORAGE-WATER SURFACE AREA CURVE HENSHAW RESERVE

 $AC.H.$

Storage

HENSHAW RESERVOIR

MASS FLOW DATA

Hodges Reservoir-Max. Area for Evaporation

Water surface area= 1320 Acres.

HODGES RESERVOIR AUXILIARY CURVES FOR SAFE WELD DETERMINATION

MASS FLOW DATA

Sweetwater Res. - Maximum Area for Evaporation

 $A - 24$

Water Surface Area = 1029 Acres.

SWEETWATER RESERVOIR

AUXILIARY CURVES FOR YIELD DETERMINATION **SAFE**

CURVE FOR WATER SURFACE AREA

Sweetwater Reservoir-Evaporation adjusted for Res. Area

MASS FLOW DATA 1898-1916

 -4700 005761 2700 $50/5 -299.$ $-3,200$ $700 +$ $-4,300$ Gain A.F. -4800 $\frac{3}{2}$ 56,400 -8200 31,700 -1,100 -2,700 11,500 -400 \angle 0550) 7 otal (Approx) 0013 Out flow 001'5 4.5 Summa-96,600 $-11,400$ 57400 70,600 $-8,800$ 33,900 53,500 **99900** 71,500 $-70,800$ -12400 71,600 $-13,000$ 73,700 13,200 $-6/00$ $-13,500$ $7/7$ $7/2n$ 1,000 Goin or $4/3600$ 33,800 1,700 125,000 $-2,200$ 009 24,600 $7/2500$ -2700 -2000 -1,100 -2600 $-6/00$ 1000 3800 009 -500 LO55 A.F. 5,000 900 35,000 16,000 9,600 3/00 3500 39000 27,000 13,800 4100 99000 Inflow 002 800 \circ 4 \overline{O} \overline{O} \overline{O} A.F. 5400 5200 3500 5800 Evapor 5300 3300 2000 000 3500 1400 500 2500 2900 009 200 200 6/00 2000 2055 A.F. Evap 54 52 56 59 62 59 89 57 $\frac{3}{9}$ 67 \overline{O} Evap $|{\it Pre}_{{\cal C}_i}|$ Net 67 $\frac{Q}{Q}$ 62 67 20 $\tilde{5}$ 19 \overline{U} $\overline{7}$ \tilde{c} 24 $\frac{6}{2}$ $\overline{0}$ $\vec{4}$ \tilde{G} $\overline{}$ \mathbb{Z}^3 $\overline{4}$ \overline{O} ω \tilde{c} ω \overline{C} In ∞ 4 N ω 75 In. 55 Acres 1030 450 030 500 350 030 OSO' 650 250 007 650 500 001 750 $C\mathcal{E}O$ Res. $\mathcal{S}^{\mathcal{O}}$ 250 Area SC $1,800$ 25,300 20,600 Storage $13,300$ 30,000 00201 0056, 39,000
000,65 25,700 00621 4,400 26,900 30,000 30,000 21,800 17,000 2100 $A.F.$ Orig 1898 006 2/6 $\overline{9}$ \mathcal{O}° $\frac{0}{2}$ OZ $O3$ 05 80 \tilde{O} \overline{C} $\overline{2}$ $\langle \cdot \rangle$ Year 04 $\tilde{\omega}$

Sweetwater Reservoir-Evaporation adjusted for Res. Area

PRECIPITATION RECORD

 $inches$

PRECIPITATION RECORD

inches

 $A - 29$

PRECIPITATION RECORD

 $\vert \cdot \vert$

 $A - 32$