“Deep Water: Photos, Film & Tape from the MWD Archives”

Society of California Archivists AGM

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David Keller
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Facts

Founded in 1928 by a group of 13 cities

26 member agencies

Supplies one third to one half of drinking water for 19 million people

37 member Board of Directors

Responsible for construction, maintenance, and operation of the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA)

Covers 5,200 square mile area within 6 counties

Supports So Cal’s one trillion dollar economy
Getting Started - William Mulholland & W.B. Mathews
Pre-History – L A City Surveys
Plank Road 1926 Survey Work
Topo Survey  Bridge Canyon Dam Site
H.B. Allen & Norma Lou Allen at Rim Canyon, near Black Canyon
Al Preston Mechanic
with portable shop, 12/31/1930.
Construction Begins

Early 1930's

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Size of Metropolitan Aqueduct Revealed by District Engineers

LARGEST RAILWAY ENGINE in U.S. Can Pass Through METROPOLITAN AQUEDUCT SECTION

1905: 200,000 POPULATION IN LOS ANGELES LAUNCHED OWENS RIVER AQUEDUCT

TODAY: 1,000,000 POPULATION IN METROPOLITAN AREA TO LAUNCH COLORADO RIVER AQUEDUCT

DRIVING TEAM OF HORSES THROUGH SECTION OF LOS ANGELES-OWENS RIVER AQUEDUCT DURING CONSTRUCTION—1905

Metropolitan Water District engineers recently made a number of crossings of the Metropolitan Aqueduct to be built from the Colorado River and the Owens River, only 280 miles apart. While Los Angeles had a population of about 350,000 when the railroad was completed, the population of today's Los Angeles is approximately 3.5 million. The Owens River Aqueduct was laid through a corridor that was never intended for residential areas, but the Colorado River Aqueduct will cross more than two million additional inhabitants in this region.

FOR RELEASE JANUARY 2nd

4000 Already at Work On Colorado River Aqueduct

Above is a scene at the intake site of the Colorado River Aqueduct, where one billion gallons of water will be taken from the river daily for the thirteen Southern California cities of the Metropolitan Water District. Inset—F. E. Weymouth, general manager and chief engineer of the District, who is in charge of construction work on the giant Aqueduct project.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colorado River Aqueduct construction forces are at work today on the first of sixty-two miles of huge canal which will form a part of the 242-mile aqueduct of the Metropolitan Water District.

The huge aqueduct canals, capable of carrying a billion gallons of water daily, have a width across the top of fifty-five feet, a bottom width of twenty feet, and a depth of ten feet, two inches. All are of reinforced concrete construction.

Meanwhile work is going forward on fifty-five miles of conduit sections, twenty-nine miles of siphons, and ninety-two miles of tunnels on the main line of the aqueduct. Ten miles of tunneling also is under way on the distribution system of the project.

Metropolitan Water District progress figures reveal that underground crews have excavated more than sixty-five miles of the tunnel on the main aqueduct. The work of placing concrete lining in excavated tunnel sections is under way at several points.

Forces of Six Companies, Inc., report steady progress on Parker Dam at the aqueduct intake on the Colorado River, 150 miles downstream from Boulder Dam.

4-13-35
Construction Continues

Whitsett Intake at the Colorado River,
1938-1939
Southern California residents turn on the taps and receive Colorado River Water.
Colorado River Aqueduct
Map & Profile
San Jacinto Tunnel