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## **DOMINGUEZ WATER CORPORATION COLLECTION, 1910-1986**

Finding aid prepared by Jennifer Allan Goldman

California State University, Dominguez Hills

Archives and Special Collections

University Library, Room G-145

1000 E. Victoria Street

Carson, California 90747

Phone: (310) 243-3895

URL: <http://archives.csudh.edu/>

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## **Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Dominguez Water Corporation Collection

**Dates:** 1910-1986

**Collection Number:** Consult repository.

**Creator:** Dominguez Water Corporation

**Extent:** 8 boxes (4.5 linear feet)

**Repository:** California State University, Dominguez Hills Archives and Special Collections

Archives and Special Collection

University Library, Room G-145

1000 E. Victoria Street

Carson, California 90747

Phone: (310) 243-3013

URL: <http://archives.csudh.edu/>

**Abstract:** This collection includes legal documents, correspondence, monthly and yearly financial reports, receipts, photographs, and an artifact. Subjects include payroll, budgets, construction, and residential and industrial water supply.

**Language:** Collection material is in English

### **Access**

There are no access restrictions on this collection.

### **Publication Rights**

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### **Preferred Citation**

[Title of item], Dominguez Water Corporation Collection, Courtesy of the Department of Archives and Special Collections. University Library. California State University, Dominguez Hills

### **Acquisition Information**

The collection was received in the late 1980s with the help of Professor Judson Grenier. It was likely transferred from the original pumphouse on Alameda Street in Compton. Additions to the collection have been made by archival staff members

### **Project Information**

This finding aid was created as part of the Early Los Angeles/Rancho San Pedro Manuscript Cataloging Project, a CSU Dominguez Hills Library project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project started in 2005. Project Director was Greg Williams. Project Archivists were Thomas Philo and Jennifer Allan Goldman.

### **History**

The Dominguez Water Company was founded in 1911 in an effort to provide a reliable source of water to the Rancho San Pedro lands. The first board included Henry O'Melveny, Kaspere Cohn, and representatives from the Watson, Carson, and Del Amo families. Even with a growing consumer base, the cost of maintenance and operations kept the company from earning a profit. In 1914, the winter flooding damaged pipes, wells, and equipment. The earthquake of 1933 also damaged the pumping plant and equipment. By 1936, the company was heavily in debt to the Dominguez Estate Company and the County Superior Court ordered the Water Company to sell its assets to the Estate Company. The following year, it was incorporated as the Dominguez Water Corporation, a subsidiary of the Dominguez Estate Company.

In 1940, the Water Corporation was granted public utility status, which allowed it to expand its service area to locations outside of Los Angeles, including the Antelope Valley and Kern County. In the 2000-2001 fiscal year, the Water Corporation was purchased by the California Water Services Group and ceased operations as a stand-alone utility. Major figures in the Corporation included Superintendent Egbert P. Tallon, his son Thomas Tallon, and Resident Engineer George Hand.

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### **Scope and Content**

This collection consists of documents from the business operations of the Water Company. The bulk of the documents are financial in nature, including yearly and monthly reports, receipts, and other records. Major figures in this collection include Water Company Superintendent Thomas V. Tallon and Resident Engineer George Hand. The collection has been organized into six series.

### **Arrangement**

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Arranged in seven series:

- Series I. Financial Documents (1921-1986)
- Series II. Legal Documents (1910-1961)
- Series III. Correspondence (1911-1975)
- Series IV. Reports (1950-1960)
- Series V. Pamphlets (circa 1986)
- Series VI. Photographs (1985)
- Series VII. Artifact (1972)

**Subjects**

- Public utilities—Earthquake effects—Los Angeles County
- Public utilities—Public relations
- Public utilities—Rates
- Torrance (Calif.)—History
- Water conservation—Los Angeles County
- Water distribution—Pipes
- Water engineering and management
- Water resources
- Water rights—California—Los Angeles—history
- Water utilities—California—Los Angeles County
- Water utilities—Employees

**Personal Names**

- Hand, George H.
- Kohn, Kaspare
- O'Melveny, Henry
- Tallon, Thomas V.

**Corporate Names**

- Dominguez Water Company
- California Public Utilities Commission
- Watson Land Company
- Dominguez Estate Company

**Related Collections**

- Rancho San Pedro Collection
- Rancho San Pedro Reference Collection

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**Financial Documents 1913-1986**

**Physical Description:** 81 folders (6 boxes)

**Scope and Content Note**

Monthly financial statements, yearly audit reports, and annual reports; an inventory of filed reports; budgets; balance sheets; and payroll documentation, including vacation days and changes in pay-level or position; information on available pension plans; loose materials, including a stock certificate; and receipts, kept in the original alphabetic order. Some monthly and yearly reports are missing, as noted in the inventory.

- Box 1, Folder 1                    **Monthly financial reports, March - November 1924**
- Box 1, Folder 2                    **Monthly financial reports, January - November 1925**
- Box 1, Folder 3                    **Monthly financial reports, January - November 1926**
- Box 1, Folder 4                    **Monthly financial reports, January - November 1927**
- Box 1, Folder 5                    **Monthly financial reports, January - July 1928**

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Box 1, Folder 6	Monthly financial reports, January - September 1929
Box 1, Folder 7	Monthly financial reports, January - October 1930
Box 1, Folder 8	Monthly financial report, June 1936
Box 1, Folder 9	Monthly financial reports, July - November 1943
Box 1, Folder 10	Monthly financial reports, January - November 1944
Box 1, Folder 11	Monthly financial reports, January - October 1945
Box 1, Folder 12	Monthly financial reports, January - November 1947
Box 2, Folder 1	Monthly financial reports, January - November 1948
Box 2, Folder 2	Monthly financial reports, January - March, July 1949
Box 2, Folder 3	Monthly financial reports, July - November 1950
Box 2, Folder 4	Monthly financial reports, January - November 1951
Box 2, Folder 5	Budget for capital expenditures and details of additions to fixed capital 1953, 1956
Box 2, Folder 6	Monthly financial reports, April - September 1952
Box 2, Folder 7	Monthly financial reports, April - November 1953
Box 2, Folder 8	Monthly financial reports, January - November 1954
Box 3, Folder 1	Monthly financial reports, January - November 1955
Box 3, Folder 2	Monthly financial reports, March - November 1956
Box 3, Folder 3	Monthly financial reports, January - November 1957
Box 3, Folder 4	Monthly financial reports, January - November 1958
Box 3, Folder 5	Monthly financial reports, January - November 1959
Box 3, Folder 6	Monthly financial reports, January - November 1960
Box 3, Folder 7	Monthly financial reports, January - June, October - November 1961
Box 3, Folder 8	Audit report, December 1920 - June 1921 1921
Box 3, Folder 9	Yearly audit report 1921
Box 3, Folder 10	Yearly audit report 1922
Box 3, Folder 11	Yearly audit report 1923
Box 3, Folder 12	Yearly audit report 1924
Box 3, Folder 13	Yearly audit report 1926
Box 3, Folder 14	Yearly audit report 1928
Box 4, Folder 1	Yearly audit report 1929
Box 4, Folder 2	Yearly audit report 1930
Box 4, Folder 3	Yearly audit report 1931
Box 4, Folder 4	Yearly audit report 1935
Box 4, Folder 5	Yearly audit report 1939
Box 4, Folder 6	Annual report 1942
Box 4, Folder 7	Annual report 1943
Box 4, Folder 8	Annual report 1949
Box 4, Folder 9	Annual report 1950
Box 4, Folder 10	Annual report 1952
Box 4, Folder 11	Annual report 1953
Box 4, Folder 12	Annual report 1955
Box 4, Folder 13	Annual report 1963
Box 4, Folder 14	Annual report 1964
Box 4, Folder 15	Annual report 1965
Box 4, Folder 16	Annual report 1966
Box 4, Folder 17	Annual report 1967
Box 4, Folder 18	Annual report 1968
Box 4, Folder 19	Annual report 1969
Box 4, Folder 20	Annual report 1970
Box 4, Folder 21	Annual report 1971
Box 4, Folder 22	Annual report 1972
Box 5, Folder 1	Annual report 1973
Box 5, Folder 2	Annual report 1974
Box 5, Folder 3	Annual report 1975
Box 5, Folder 4	Annual report 1976
Box 5, Folder 5	Annual report 1977
Box 5, Folder 6	Annual report 1978
Box 5, Folder 7	Annual report 1979

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Box 5, Folder 8	<b>Annual report, photocopy 1981</b>
Box 5, Folder 9	<b>Annual report 1983</b>
Box 5, Folder 10	<b>Annual report 1984</b>
Box 5, Folder 11	<b>Annual report 1985</b>
Box 5, Folder 12	<b>Annual report 1986</b>
Box 5, Folder 13	<b>Balance Sheets and Statements of Income and Earned Surplus 1954-1960</b>
Box 5, Folder 14	<b>Budgets 1950-1960</b>
Box 5, Folder 15	<b>Payroll records 1947-1948</b>
Box 5, Folder 16	<b>Retirement/Pension plans 1957</b>
Box 5, Folder 17	<b>Misc. financial documents - tax reports, draft balance sheets, stock certificate, and 1966 annual report 1916, 1924, 1966</b>
Box 6, Folder 1	<b>Receipts, A - B 1913-1914</b>
Box 6, Folder 2	<b>Receipts, C 1913-1914</b>
Box 6, Folder 3	<b>Receipts, D - G 1913-1914</b>
Box 6, Folder 4	<b>Receipts, H - L 1913-1914</b>
Box 6, Folder 5	<b>Receipts, M 1913-1914</b>
Box 6, Folder 6	<b>Receipts, P - R 1913-1914</b>
Box 6, Folder 7	<b>Receipts, S 1913-1914</b>
Box 6, Folder 8	<b>Receipts, T - Z 1913-1914</b>

**Legal Documents 1910-1961**

Physical Description: 1 folder

**Scope and Content Note**

Land deeds; certificates of easement; insurance policies; and a copy of the 1961 petition to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California to raise water rates. Most documents dated 1910-1922.

Box 6, Folder 9	<b>Easement contracts, construction contracts, deeds of land, insurance certificates, and Public Utilities Commission opinion on raising rates 1910, 1912, 1921-1923, 1961</b>
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**Correspondence 1911-1975**

Physical Description: 10 folders (1 box)

**Scope and Content Note**

General correspondence, kept in original alphabetic order, regarding bill payment, employee accidents, and management of the company; inner-office memos; and announcements to shareholders of the annual meeting. Also, a folder of photocopied material and original maps dealing with the Los Angeles County road department and water rights. Bulk of the correspondence falls between 1915 and 1922. A copy of the Board of Directors minutes book covers meetings from 1911 to 1934.

Box 7, Folder 1	<b>General Correspondence, A - E 1919-1922</b>
Box 7, Folder 2	<b>General Correspondence, F - I 1916-1922</b>
Box 7, Folder 3	<b>General Correspondence, J - L 1915-1920</b>
Box 7, Folder 4	<b>General Correspondence, M - Z 1917-1922</b>
Box 7, Folder 5	<b>Loose materials with correspondence 1911, 1914, 1917, 1921-1922, 1972</b>
Box 7, Folder 6	<b>Letters, Shilling, Charles E. 1917-1922</b>
Box 7, Folder 7	<b>Office memos 1947-1948</b>
Box 7, Folder 8	<b>Announcements, annual meeting of shareholders 1963, 1974, 1975</b>
Box 7, Folder 9	<b>Correspondence, legal documents, and maps - all copies - regarding county road easements and water rights 1930, 1943, 1958, 1954-56, 1960, 1964</b>
Box 7, Folder 10	<b>Board of Directors minute book (copy) 1911-1934</b>

**Reports 1950-1960**

Physical Description: 1 folder

**Scope and Content Note**

Engineering reports on flood control zones and reservoirs; physical system report; and report created for the Public Utilities Commission petition to raise rates.

Box 7, Folder 11

**Engineering reports on flood control zones, reservoirs, physical system, and petition to Public Utilities Commission for rate increase 1950-1951, 1954, 1960**

**Pamphlets circa 1986**

**Physical Description:** 1 folder

**Scope and Content Note**

Various publicly distributed pamphlets, including "Dominguez Water Corporation: Yesterday and Today," in honor of the corporation's 75th anniversary; water conservation brochures; and an introduction to the new corporate office. None of the material is dated.

Box 7, Folder 12

**"Dominguez Water Corporation: Yesterday and Today," water conservation pamphlet, brochure for new office ca. 1960s-1980s**

**Photographs 1985**

**Physical Description:** 1 folder

**Scope and Content Note**

Photograph of James Bradley, President of the Water; photographs of the interior and exterior of the Dominguez Water Company building on Alameda, taken by history student Susan Hikida in 1985. All black and white.

Box 7, Folder 13

**Photographs of James Bradley (President); Water Company pumphouse, interior and exterior 1985**

**Artifact 1972**

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Scope and Content Note**

Desk-top flag stand made using redwood from water pipes used by the Dominguez Water Company. Inscription reads: "REDWOOD PIPE REMOVED AFTER 60 YEARS IN DOMINGUEZ WATER CORP. SYSTEM JUNE 1972"

Box 8

**Desk-top flag stand made of a piece of redwood pipe once in service by the Water Company 1972**