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Letter from Walter L. Fisher to James Ralph, Jr., 1912 May 28.

Walter L. Fisher

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May 28, 1912.

Dear Sir:

As you are doubtless already advised, on last Thursday City Attorney Long and Mr. John R. Freeman held a conference at my office with the Board of Engineers on the Hetch Hetchy matter, at which the request of the city of San Francisco for a further extension of time in which to present its evidence was carefully considered. I was quite sorry to hear of Mr. Hanson's incapacity and appreciate the difficulty of filling his place so as to enable the City to present its case within the time fixed.

As a result of our conference it was agreed that the City should be given until June 30, 1912, to file the matters it wishes to present with regard to the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts, and also the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and McCloud sources of supply.

On July 15th the city is to file its comprehensive plans (and explanations thereof) as to the proposed use and development of the Hetch Hetchy and Lake Eleanor valleys and water sheds, including the proposed sanitary restrictions; and all supporting evidence as to the feasibility of these restrictions. It will also file a general outline of

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the proposed method of conveying water from the Yosemite to the City, including power development, etc., all in sufficient detail to present clearly what is proposed and to enable the objectors to the use of the Hetch Hetchy by the City to present their views with respect thereto. The City is to reserve the right to file supporting engineering details by August 1st. On July 15th the City is also to file a complete report on the East Bay water sources and needs.

On August 1st, the City is to file all remaining data necessary to complete its case and to meet the requests for information which have been made by the Board of Engineers.

All papers are to be filed at the office of the Board of Engineers at the Custom House in San Francisco, and the material and plans relating to the proposed use and development of the Hetch Hetchy and Lake Eleanor reservoir and water sheds (to be filed by July 15th) is to be in printed form so that copies may be available for all of the objectors. All other material above referred to is to be filed in triplicate, so that a copy may be available here in Washington, another in San Francisco, and a third for the use of the Board of Engineers. One of these copies can be returned to the City after the hearing. If any material thus far filed is not in triplicate kindly have the necessary additional copies filed so that their examination by the Government and by the objectors may be expedited.

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I shall notify all of the objectors of the arrangement thus made, and that the various documents filed by the City will be available for examination by the objectors, from and after the filing, respectively. It is my present intention to give the objectors until the first of October to present anything they may desire to offer. The City will then be given thirty days in which to meet any points thus raised, and the entire matter will be set for hearing in the city of Washington some time during the month of November. If I find it feasible to shorten these periods, and set the hearing for an earlier date I shall do so.

The Board of Army Engineers expects to go to California early in July to take up there the examination of the papers filed by the City and such other matters as it seems appropriate.

Very truly yours,

Walter L. Fisher
Secretary.

Honorable James Rolph, Jr.,
Mayor's Office,
San Francisco, California.