

Marine Biological Association of San Diego / The Scripps Institution of Oceanography Archives

1. August 31, 1905 petition by F. T. Scripps to the Common Council of the City of San Diego, offering to purchase Pueblo Lot 1298 from the City. "If your Honorable Body should determine to have the said property offered for sale, I hereby engage to offer a reasonable price therefor." Document No. 10836, filed September 5, 1905. Referred to City Lands Committee on September 5, 1905. City Lands Committee (L. A. Creelman, George McNeill, F. J. Geldkamp or F. A. Goldkamp) recommended on October 2, 1905 that the petition be granted. Report adopted by Council on October 2, 1905.

2. January 3, 1906 communication to Mayor and Council of the City of San Diego by William E. Ritter, Laboratory of the Marine Association of San Diego regarding the relation of the municipality to the laboratory located at La Jolla, the lack of a sewage system and general sea water quality.

"La Jolla was selected for the site of this laboratory after careful study of numerous other possible places on the California coast. One of the weightiest considerations in favor of this as against other points was the fact that here the best of ocean water would be at the very door of the laboratory. The dread of all institutions of this kind is the bacteria that are inevitable in waters contaminated by sewage, as those of land locked bays and harbors on which cities are situated are sure to be. Obviously, then, were the waters in the vicinity of the laboratory to become polluted by sewage, one of the foremost advantages of the location would be gone. The village of La Jolla is, as you are aware, without a sewage system. Growth in population is rapid, and the question of disposing of sewage is being agitated, and must continue to be until settled by the city. It is unlikely that a method of doing this other than that of piping it into the sea will be found practicable. Sewers thus discharging may be so placed as to leave the waters about the laboratory nearly or quite as pure for the future as it is to-day. But, on the other hand, they may be so located as to impair the present purity of the station's source of sea water.

I would point out that during most of the year (whether for the whole year I am not sure) there is a current, or drift, of water, close in shore from south to north around Alligator Point, on which the laboratory stands, along past the caves toward the so-called long beach. While, consequently, these condition prevail, refuse cast into the sea to the north of the Point would be carried away, that discard to the south would tend to be carried around the Point: that is, across the intake of the pipes supplying the laboratory. I say that sewers discharging into the sea to the south tend to reach to water supply of the laboratory. Of course, were the place of discharge far enough away, the injurious effects would be avoided. Just what distance would be necessary I have not the data to determine, but I should say that at least one mile would be requisite for perfect safety.

Being neither an engineer nor an expert on sewage problems, it is not my purpose to offer suggestions as to details of how a sewer system might be managed to reach the result desired. I rest content with pointing out what conditions will have to be met to ensure these results; and as it does not appear at all impossible to so design and install the sewer system that the dreaded injury may be avoided, I do not doubt that the honorable members of the city government upon whom at any time may fall the responsibility in the matter will be willing and able to successfully cope with such details.

To further impress upon you the importance of this case, I may say there is little doubt that the near future will see this station, now small and little known, develop into an institution of magnitude, great usefulness of science, and corresponding wide reputation.

While making this plea for the laboratory from the standpoint of its water supply, I would also call attention to the likelihood that other matters pertaining to the institution may need consideration by those charged with the conduct of the city's affairs. Already permission to erect the laboratory building on a city-park has been generously granted. In due time, as changes are necessary in either the laboratory or the park, or both, the welfare of the city property and the station ought to be regarded together.

If, therefore, such action would not be contrary to the usage of your honorable bodies, I would suggest that resolutions be adopted declaring the city's interest in the Biological Station, and the desire and intent always to give due consideration to presentations that may be made by those acting for the station.

Since such resolutions would become part of the records of the city, they might be of great use as information to those who in {the} future may be charged with the duties of government.

*Respectfully submitted,
Wm. E. Ritter
Scientific Director*

This letter was submitted to the Directors of the Biological Association, at a meeting held Jan. 3, 1906, and was approved by the adoption of the following:

Moved that the letter addressed by Scientific Director, Wm. E. Ritter, to the Mayor and City Council of San Diego, touching the problem of keeping the sea water about the laboratory free from pollution by sewage, has the strong approval of this Board. Motion carried."

Document No. 12378, filed January 15, 1906. Referred to City Attorney, to prepare necessary papers to carry out recommendation. Six pages, including cover and notations regarding gift of Miss Ellen B. Scripps.

3. January 8, 190{6} (must be mistaken in dating Jan. 8, 1905) communication from William E. Ritter to Mayor and City Council of the City of San Diego announcing a promised gift of \$50,000 by Ellen Browning Scripps to the work and building of the Marine Biological Station at La Jolla. "This will surely be a sufficient guarantee to the authorities of the City that my intimation, in my former communications {predicting that the Station will become an institution of much larger proportions than it now is}, and should furnish sufficient reason for the great desire on the part of the managers of the laboratory that the sewerage problem of La Jolla be so handled that the very minimum of contamination of the water will result." Document No. 12379, filed January 15, 1906. Referred to City Attorney to prepare Resolution accepting gift (January 15, 1906). Two pages, including summary cover.

4. January 15, 1906 Message from the Mayor John L. Sehon transmitting to the Common Council, City of San Diego, Ritter's letter regarding sewage and potential contamination of the Marine Station's water.

"In view of the rapid growth of La Jolla and the increasing number of private sewers that empty into the waters in that vicinity, it seems proper, in the opinion of Prof. Ritter, to invite the attention of the Common Council to the necessity of protecting the ocean waters in that locality from contamination with the bacteria inevitably found in sewage and which would destroy or injure much of the marine life the study of which is the principal object of the biological station.

The plans outlined for this marine biological station contemplate the erection and maintenance, for scientific investigations, of permanent and well equipped buildings whose laboratories will in the near future take high rank in the scientific world and accordingly add another individual interest to the many attractions of the City of San Diego.

Prof. Ritter's views upon this subject seem most timely and I believe should be given much weight at all times when Your Honorable Body may be called upon to consider any matters connected with the installation of either private sewers of a temporary nature or the construction of a general public sewer system for La Jolla.

In his communication of Jan. 3rd, prof. Ritter also suggests that the municipal authorities adopt suitable resolutions declaring the city's interest in the biological station and the desire and intent always to give due consideration to presentations that may be made by those acting for the station; believing that such resolutions will become part of the records of the city and therefore be of great use as information to those who in the future may be charged with the duties of municipal administration. I heartily concur in the views so expressed by Prof. Ritter and recommend that Your Honorable Body request the City Attorney to prepare for your consideration a suitable

resolution declaring it to be the policy of the municipal authorities to foster in all ways possible the interest of the Marine Biological Association of San Diego and that the city will receive, in grateful appreciation, all gifts, presentations or endowments intended for this purpose.

I also transmit to your Honorable Body a communication dated January 8th, 1906, addressed to the Honorable Mayor and City Council of the City of San Diego, California, from Prof. Ritter, Scientific Director of the Laboratory of the Marine Biological Association, inc which he states that he has now been authorized by Miss Ellen B. Scripps to announce that \$50,000 has been promised for the building and its work. This munificent gift upon the part of Miss Scripps will permit the erection of a suitable permanent building for the scientific purposes above outlined; and I further recommend to Your Honorable Body that the City Attorney be requested to prepare a resolution accepting, on the part of the city, this generous gift and to cordially express to Miss Ellen B. Scripps the high appreciation and approval of the municipal authorities of her philanthropical and public-spirited act,

*Very respectfully,
John L. Sehon
Mayor of the City of San Diego, Cal."*

Document No. 12377, filed January 15, 1906. Four pages, including cover.

5. January 12, 1907 communication from Wm. E. Ritter, Scientific Director of the San Diego Marine Biological Station to the Common Council of the City of San Diego, Cal.

"Gentlemen:

It may be known to the members of your Body that the Marine Biological Association of San Diego is prepared to locate the biological station and to immediately being the erection of the necessary buildings for such station. It is perhaps further known to you that the city park at La Jolla has been found to be an especially desirable site for the laboratory.

In order to hasten forward to building as much as possible I have requested the city attorney to prepare the accompanying resolution, to be passed by your Body for the purpose of facilitating such action by the state legislature as will be necessary to secure to the station the right to use the La Jolla Park. Should the Honorable Common Council see its way to adopt the resolution, the Marine Biological Association, for which I speak, would be grateful, as it would regard the action as an important step toward bringing to a conclusion the question of securing a site for its buildings.

*Very respectfully submitted,
Wm. E. Ritter
Scientific Director of the San Diego Marine Biological Station."*

Document No. 15853, presented to Council and ordered filed January 14, 1907. Two pages, including cover.

6. July 18, 1907 Notice of Sale of Pueblo Lot 1298 at Public Auction on August 10, 1907 at 10 O'clock A.M. by J. T. Butler, City Clerk, San Diego. Notice given pursuant to Ordinance No. 2970 approved on July 16, 1907 in front of the main "G" Street entrance to City Hall of the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, CA. situated at the southwest corner of Fifth and G Streets. Property described as:

"All of Pueblo Lot No. 1298 according to the official map of the Pueblo Lands of the City of San Diego as made by James Pascoe, reserving therefrom a strip of land one hundred (100) feet wide through said property as a right of way for the boulevard extending from La Jolla Park to the Torrey Pines in said city....Said property will be offered at public auction for sale as a whole to the highest and best bidder in lawful money of the United States, and sold to the highest and best bidder, subject to approval and confirmation of said sale by the common council of said city by ordinance and to the right of said council to reflect and disaffirm any such sale. That any purchaser of said property at such sale shall pay to the clerk of said city, for the use and benefit of said City of San Diego, twenty per cent. (20%) of the amount of his bid at the time such sale is made, and the balance of the purchase price of the property so sold shall be payable in lawful money of the united States upon the approval of such sale by the common council and the tender to such bidder of a good and sufficient deed of conveyance of said city to the property sold to

him; and if such sale shall be disaffirmed by said common council the amount so paid by said bidder shall be returned to him upon demand at any time after the taking effect of the ordinance disaffirming such sale.”

Document No. 18723, filed July 18, 1907. Notation on cover reads “Pub. O/k July 20/07.”
Three pages, including cover.

7. Undated (filed August 5, 1907), handwritten communication from C. B. Richards to the Honorable Councilmen of the City of San Diego, tendering deed to Pueblo Lot 1298 to the City.

“Gentlemen: As the Marine Biological Association wish to secure Pueblo Lot 1298. and thinking that said Lot belonged to the City. requested that if be put up at auction. Therefore I herewith give to the City of San Diego my quitclaim deed for free. To said Lot . so that the City will be able to give a good and legal title to said pueblo Lot. otherwise the City could not do so.

The City is also hereby requested to reserve a strip of land one hundred feet wide for a public highway and for a Railroad through said pueblo Lot. at or near its Western boundary.
Very respectfully C. B. Richards.”

Document No. 18931, filed August 5, 1907. Handwritten, one page note on stationary. Two pages, including cover.

8. November 16, 1909 minutes from the regular meeting of the Park Department, City of San Diego, referencing a presentation by Prof. Ritter of the Biological Station concerning the Biological Building in La Jolla Park. Beside the subject entry “House La Jolla Park,” reads “It was decided to allow the building to remain until further developments.”

One page, two sentence entry in bound 1909 volume of minutes for the Park Department.

9. April 9, 1912 petition to Common Council, City of San Diego from Attorney for the Biological Station, Albert Schoonover, regarding City Taxes on Pueblo Lot No. 1298, including penalties and interest, amounting to \$150.84. Pueblo Lot 1298 was deeded by the City to the Marine Biological Association. The Biological Station was erected thereon by Miss Ellen Browning Scripps. Mr. Schoonover states that the Marine Biological Association is purely a scientific concern with no profit motive, formally organized for the purpose of turning over its properties to the University of California, and that such transfer has been made pursuant to a court order. He argues that since the properties in essence have been held in trust all this time for the University for scientific purpose, the taxes should be remitted or reduced. Document No. 50345, filed April 9, 1905. Referred to City Attorney on April 15, 1905. Denied by Council on April 22, 1912. Two pages, including cover summary.

10. November 21, 1913 letter to the Mayor and City Council, San Diego, California, from Wm. E. Ritter, Scientific Director, The Scripps Institution for Biological Research of the University of California (“Located at La Jolla Near San Diego, California.”) regarding the sale of liquor in La Jolla and the Biological Station community members’ disenfranchisement from the advisory voting as a result of a technicality in the election regulations. Mr. Ritter staged a vote on the matter on this day, the date of the official advisory election, for the members of the Biological Station, resulting in 14 adult residents against a liquor license at a La Jolla and 1 for a license. He states:

My colleagues and myself are thus decisive in our objection to legalizing the sale of liquor in any form at La Jolla because we believe it would be detrimental to the development of the Institution for which we are responsible. Touching for the present the purely business side of the matter, the considerations to which we especially invite the attention of your honorable body are these: It is the desire and the settled purpose of this insInstitutio soon to put on the market a considerable portion of its 175 acres of land with a view to deriving an income therefrom for the maintenance of the scientific and educational work for which the Institution exists. Success in a policy of this kind will require us to make our place attractive along such lines as lie within our possibilities; namely, through the

development of our aquarium, museum, and library, and by popular lectures, demonstration, etc. on the sciences of the sea and the animals and plants of the region. Success in this will depend again on an appeal to the lass of people likely to be interested in this sort of thing. People of this class are as a rule not attracted, bt are repelled by the general atmosphere that inevitably surrounds the public dispensing of intoxicating liquours.

The contention that under a class B license restriction and regulation are so rigid as to preclude the objections above indicated we cannot accept. Were the restrictions to be actually as close as we are assured they would be, we cannot believe the end avowedly aimed at, namely, a great increase of tourist business, would follow. This license would, we believe, mean either a failure in large measure in what its proponents claim for or would be a mere wedge for "opening up" the town. The latter alternative we anticipate would be the one to prevail. With little doubt so with the firm belief that if this license be secured, other licenses which will directly benefit them may also be secured.

*Very truly yours,
Wm. E. Ritter
Scientific Director*

Two page letter, no cover sheet. In a file with the following:

Tally of actual Advisory Election on "Shall Any 'Class B' Liquor License Be Granted at La Jolla?" attached to letter. Results "Yes" 206, "No" 268 (results signed by E.G.Helm, Nathan L. Rannells, J. Mills Boal and J. G. Coombs. Results presented to and ordered to be filed on November 25, 1913. Also included is a 5 page Statement of the Protestants, "In Re The Application Of H. H.. Hudson For A 'Class B' Liquor License at La Jolla, CAL."; submitted to the City by (and signed by) seven members of the Executive Committee for Protestants, including Wm. E. Ritter, J. Mills Boal, Mrs. S. C. Dempsey (Sally, Real Estate Office on Girard), Frances E. Tomlinson, Shelton Bissell (a pastor), Edw. F. Stahle (real estate broker), and C. F. Atkinson. Also included in the file were publications by H. H. Hudson and the Committee in favor of the restaurant and cafe liquor license ("To The Voters of La Jolla" statements, notices and flyers). Sample ballots and a news clipping as well.

11. Five, undated (name indicates after 1925) photographs, including fronts and backs, of what appears to be the drainage system of piping and conduits at or in the area of The Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California, La Jolla, Calif., labelled "Unit 4" and "Calif 4- 140."