President Richard M. Nixon  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you about a very important project. It is very briefly described in the accompanying booklet that I tried to write several years ago, "The Resurrection of Death Valley".

The plan is to re-cycle all of our sewage and waste water, back through Death Valley and a natural water reclaiming process far greater than any man-made refinery. I think you will enjoy reading it.

Most important, is the creation of another National Park. I'll try to be very clear about this because it is the most important point; as you guessed, it is political. Your last campaign and victory at the polls was led by the slogan of, "Bring Us Together". For that reason, I propose this name for the new National Park, JOHN F. KENNEDY NATIONAL PARK.

I am an Eisenhower Republican of the past and a Nixon man of the future, and I would hope that through this project, we can capture a big portion of the Democratic vote next year. All of our candidates, particularly in the western states, need some new planks to work on. The entire country needs some new issue or issues, for a diversion from the Vietnam War.

The snapshot of me and a friend, shows my new Ford Van in the background with it's message, KENNEDY NATIONAL PARK. The second line reads, "The proper solution to water pollution", and the third, "The Resurrection of Death Valley.". About two weeks from now, November 6th to 9th, is the annual '49er Death Valley Days Roundup. I will attend with my van on display, trying to promote this project further. I know that you have already received an invitation to this happy event, so all I can do is second it.

With all the proper respects to my President and sincere best wishes to him and his family; and to his continuing success, I remain,

Yours truly,

E. L. Marcy
The Times' official position on issues is expressed only in the two columns below. Other material on this and the next page is the opinion of the individual writer or cartoonist, and does not necessarily reflect that of The Times, unless otherwise indicated.

LETTERS TO THE TIMES

Standard Measurements, Value for Water Waste Held Needful

Regarding the editorial "New Water for the Oasis" (Dec. 12):

It is very gratifying to read and learn that you are concerned with our terrific waste water situation. The last paragraph of your editorial is, without any doubt, the greatest understatement of the year. In order to fully realize the vast extent of this terrible waste, let's convert it into terms that everyone understands, namely, dollars and cents.

Over a period of years, I've attempted to research our sewage and waste water problems. The various agencies contacted use all types of measurements, acre-feet, gallons-per-day, cubic-feet-per-second and many other units of measurements. To the layman and the man on the street, this is not only confusing, but equally misleading.

Now, I suggest that we standardize the whole system on a similar basis with other liquid resources such as petroleum. Oil wells and oil production is based on barrels and the prices are quoted at so much per barrel. Why not use this same unit of measure to truly evaluate our water system and the values involved?

Using the above mentioned method, I've established an arbitrary base value of 10c per barrel on all of our sewage and waste water. At this low, low figure, and multiplying it with volume data from many sources: I find that our daily waste amounts to the almost unbelievable sum of $3,000,000 per day. How about that for a start?

It would take a thousand oil-wells producing a thousand barrels per day each, of very high gravity oil worth $3 per bbl., to equal the daily waste that we have been so blindly exhausting into the ocean and polluting everything. It is time to consider these situations with a little more wisdom and discretion. Let's cherish and utilize the water we have.

E. L. MARCY
Torrance
New Water for the ‘Oasis’

ISSUE: Can Southern California afford to continue wasting water in the face of the need created by an expanding population?

A visitor to Southern California from another planet would surely wonder what kind of civilization spends billions to import water and yet makes relatively little effort to reclaim and re-use this precious resource.

As an "oasis civilization," our growth is literally dependent on the availability of more water for agriculture, industry and domestic use. This semi-arid land has flourished thus far because of the great dams and aqueducts that have assured a plentiful and dependable water supply.

Even so massive an engineering effort as the $2.8 billion California Water Project, however, can only assure that the state's needs will be met through 1990. Importation of more water from outside California would involve fiscal and political problems beyond any that have been encountered to date. Other alternative water sources must be seriously considered.

The one obvious and far less expensive means of maximizing our water resources now possible is through reclamation. No region so dependent upon water can waste it so profligately as we do now.

The cost of this waste is compounded, moreover, by the huge expense of disposal systems and for the control of water pollution.

Fortunately, official awareness and encouragement of water reclamation is increasing. But far more governmental effort is needed to build projects and develop public acceptance.

William Gianelli, director of the State Department of Water Resources, said recently that approximately 400,000 acre-feet of waste water in California is potentially reclaimable within the near future, in addition to the 136,000 acre-feet now being re-used.

This total alone would amount to about one-third of the water to be delivered to southern California in the first phase of the state water project.

No new technological breakthroughs are needed to process waste water for use in irrigation and industry or for recreational purposes. And as Gianelli, pointed out, the cost of reclamation is far below that of any present desalinization process.

Although waste water after passing through three full treatment processes and purification is potable and safe to drink, it is hardly realistic to expect reclaimed water to be publicly accepted as a supplement to domestic supplies for some years.

But as the highly successful projects at Santee and Whittier Narrows and Cal Poly, Pomona, have proved, waste water can be processed for use in irrigation and for recreational lakes. Reclaimed water is also being used significantly in other areas of the state for agriculture.

Industry, too, is extremely interested in utilizing processed water of suitable quality. Studies now under way by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power point to great potential in this area.

[These efforts must be continued and expanded. Southern California cannot afford to waste a drop of water.]
Mr. E. L. Marcy  
22405 Kent Avenue  
Torrance, California 90505

Dear Mr. Marcy:

On behalf of President Nixon, we wish to thank you for your letter and accompanying material proposing a plan for resurrecting Death Valley National Monument.

We recall your proposal in 1968 along somewhat similar lines which you addressed to President Johnson. You may remember that we stated that the monument was established for its unusual natural phenomena and vast desert solitude. It is truly an area of national significance and has been entrusted to the National Park Service for retention in its natural character for the benefit of this and future generations. Your present proposal, as the one before, would impair and destroy the monument.

We appreciate the great amount of thought and effort you have given to sponsorship of this reclamation idea. Perhaps such an imaginative idea can be applied to another desert area which does not possess national significance.

Your interesting booklet is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Glen T. Bean

Acting Director

Enclosure

cc:
CL, w/c of inc.
CPP, Mr. Branges, w/c of inc.
CPP, Mrs. Livingston
DAIS, Mr. Melvin, w/c of inc.

RJBranges: bbl: 11-12-69