

Great Lakes Carbon Corporation

EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 18 EAST 48TH STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.



PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO

MINING AND MINERAL PRODUCTS DIVISION

612 SOUTH FLOWER STREET, LOS ANGELES 17, CALIFORNIA, TELEPHONE MADISON 9-1611

October 31, 1960

Mrs. Bertha H. Fuller
Conservation Chairman
California History & Landmarks Club of Los Angeles
717 South Flower
Inglewood 1, California

Dear Mrs. Fuller:

This is in reply to your letters of September 20 and October 25, 1960, with respect to your interest in the preservation of our California shore line, and more particularly, the cliff shore line of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. In your letters you stated that Mr. Vanderlip mentioned Great Lakes Carbon Corporation as being the owners of the Palos Verdes cliffs and you asked if it would be possible for our company to work out an agreement with the National Parks Service to protect the cliffs for all time to come.

Since there are several owners of the Palos Verdes cliffs, any possible agreement with the National Parks Service would, of necessity, also involve cooperation on the part of these various owners, plus possible collaboration with the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department, City of Los Angeles, and also possibly the California State Beaches and Parks Department. Of approximately 14 miles of coastal cliffs between Redondo Beach and San Pedro, the coast line is apportioned on a jurisdictional and ownership basis approximately as follows:

- (a) 4 to 5 miles of shore line - lying within the City of Palos Verdes Estates, and consisting of a number of small private owners.
- (b) Approximately 1-1/2 to 2 miles of shore line - lying within the County of Los Angeles, and owned by Grandview Building Corporation. Property is in two parcels along Palos Verdes Drive West and Palos Verdes Drive South.
- (c) Approximately 1 mile of shore line - surrounding Point Vicente at the Light House, and owned by the Coast Guard and U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Mrs. Bertha H. Fuller

-2-

October 31, 1960

- (d) Approximately 3/4 mile of shore line - owned by Marineland of the Pacific.
- (e) Approximately 1 mile of shore line - a portion owned by the Vanderlips and a portion owned by the Hardins. This property lies near Abalone Cove and within the County of Los Angeles.
- (f) Approximately 1-3/4 to 2 miles of shore line - owned by Palos Verdes Properties. (Palos Verdes Properties is a partnership composed of Rancho Palos Verdes Corporation, which is a subsidiary of Great Lakes Carbon Corporation, and Capital Company, which is a subsidiary of Transamerica Corporation.) This property is also within the County of Los Angeles.
- (g) Approximately 3/4 of a mile of shore line - lying within the County of Los Angeles, with miscellaneous small owners.
- (h) In addition, there is approximately 1-1/2 miles of coast line lying between Palos Verdes Drive East and Western Avenue (west of 25th Street), which is within the City limits of Los Angeles. There are several ownerships involved here but it is our understanding that Mr. Fred Marlow is, or was the owner of the majority of this property in the City.

Please be assured we are interested in the preservation of wild life and in the natural characteristics of the cliffs and, as one of several owners, we wish to express our willingness to discuss with the National Parks Service, or any other qualified public agency, ways and means of accomplishing a conservation program. However, as you can see from the above summary, our ownership of the Palos Verdes shore line has been reduced to less than 15% of the total, and this includes one section of slide area that is involved in litigation.

Very truly yours,

Great Lakes Carbon Corporation


D. L. Marlett
Vice President

November 2, 1960

National Park Service
Washington, D C

158
Caly

Dear Friends:

Inclosed is a letter from one of the owners' representatives of the Palos Verdes cliffs about which I wrote you some time ago--with the idea it be kept as a national park much as you plan to do with Cape Cod.

You will see by Mr Marlett's letter it might not be at all beyond the National Park Service to do part of this preservation.

Mr Marlett kindly segregates the ownership----

A-is part of the beautiful Palos Verdes plans laid out by that master mind Mr Frederick Law Olmstead--so would complement whatever the Service might do with the small bit that is left.

B-COULD follow whatever idea you had--as it did get a Los Angeles County park there, right at the water's edge and I believe it too would complement whatever the Service did.

C-is already ours--the Government's--and will forever stay complementary to what we'd like of the part the Service might ever control.

D-is the site of that wonder of wonders--Marineland--completely complementary to whatever the Service might do.

E - I do not quite understand as Mr Vanderlip had written me his family did not own any of the land of Palos Verdes now--but that might well fit in with Service ideas too since the Vanderlips hired Mr Olmstead in the first place.

F-might be the ONLY piece we could get now--and I believe if the Service made a proposal to take over that area as a study area it could be done without too great expense--I have studied those cliffs and the rocks and the sea there and believe the public would enjoy it very much with narrow trails, the name of the NPS for protection--and even that small part would be worth while.

G-and H-likely beyond procuring--BUT letters showing interest would undoubtedly encourage those owners to develop their part fittingly--for the rest of the cliffs.

Anyway, I shall happy to know you investigated further--Being unable now to drive (sight about gone) I cant make the studies---and as Mr Marlett writes the idea must be discussed with qualified public agency--here is the letter sent me by L A Schools---explanatory.

Sin cereely,

Bertha H Fuller

Mrs Bertha H Fuller

over

P S

November 4, 1960

After I wrote the letter on the other side a letter came from the outgoing president of the Nature Conservancy, Los Angeles Chapter, saying Dr Edwin P Woodhouse, 5733 Canyonside Rd, La Crescenta, California, would carry on.

I wrote him at once sending him copy of the letter, original of which I inclose--from Mr Marlett, vice president, Great Lakes Carbon Corporation--from his letter you can see there is not much of the cliffs left--but what has been used has been used exactly fitting in with National Park program----I hope the Service can meet with the men from out here--when the time comes--so that we can depend on the Service's protective supervision--unless something is done, soon, that priceless wild bit of cliffside and sea rock growth will be destroyed--cliffs that have withstood the years since Cabrillo sailed along there---1542---we should save---I had no idea the skin divers were doing the damage they are but one of the former owners of the Palos Verdes, Mr Frank C Vanderlip, wrote me they did grave damage--and unless someone like the Service takes over we shall have ALL that important animal and plant growth destroyed, uselessly, as so many of our wildlife species have been.

It is likely Dr Woodhouse will write you--after he and Mr Marlett have consulted---while Nature Conservancy is thoroughly reliable it has not the facilities you have for permanent protection -the Conservancy has bought 6500 acres of finest, primitive forest on Elder Creek, Mendocino County, California, for a nature school--- Los Angeles held its nature classes on the rocks at tide height at Pt Firmin-----this and other summers as part of their youth service work--I planned to send you that letter but find I have sent it on--the schools cannot enter actively into such a project as I have in mind BUT it wanted it understood the board of education offered no objection of any kind against it--so I imagine the students could use more area---

I cant recall now what I sent you--but these cliffs are very steep, with varying widths of rocky and gravelley and sandy beach below--it would take very little land to make a fine showing--a narrow lawn such as Los Angeles City maintains along the edge, a walk, a narrow drive way (the main road is some distance away) and narrow easy trails up and down---about all that would be needed--except supervision to see the teachers are aware of dangers to the life if ruthlessly handled---it would be an all year round project--less than a hour drive from the great many million population Los Angeles area, and the drive would end overlooking the splendid Los Angeles, San Pedro, Long Beach harbor---and for once the easterner arriving here could drive leisurely along that cliff top and SEE the ocean which so few of the inlanders can do out here, everything being built up now--the largest plant in the world--laminaria--grows in the surf---and countless animals and sea plants---

Give Doctor Woodhouse time, I feel sure you will hear from him.

Sincerely, Mrs Bertha H Fuller