



Glendale Library, Arts & Culture

Glendale Central Library

222 E. Harvard Street

Glendale, California 91205

Phone: (818) 548-3789

Email: libraryinfo@glendaleca.gov

<https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/library-arts-culture/glendale-history>

Finding Aid for the Verdugo Pipe and Reservoir Company Collection, 1909-1916

Collection Overview

Title: Verdugo Pipe and Reservoir Company Collection, 1909-1916

Dates: 1909-1916

ID: VPR

Primary Creator: Verdugo Pipe and Reservoir Company

Extent: 1.5 linear feet, 1 box

Arrangement: Ledgers are arranged chronologically.

Forms of Material: Paper Records

Language of Materials: English

Abstract

The Verdugo Pipe and Reservoir Company Collection contains two ledgers that track the distribution of water to individuals and companies in the Glendale and Verdugo Canyon area, and records the company's maintenance expenses and finances. The ledgers tell part of the story of water rights, distribution, and public utilities in the greater Los Angeles region in the early 20th century.

Administrative History

In 1871, a court decision known as the Great Partition dissolved Rancho San Rafael into a number of smaller parcels. This also resulted in the dividing of rights to Verdugo Canyon water. The Verdugo Canyon Water Company was organized June 18, 1884 to distribute and manage the waters of Verdugo Canyon Creek on the west side of the canyon. The Verdugo Pipe and Reservoir Company was a stockholder of the Verdugo Canyon Water Company.

The Verdugo Pipe and Reservoir Company did not own the water that it distributed, but its stock ownership entitled it to have claim over the water it distributed through its own pipe system.

Verdugo Canyon land was highly desirable because of its south flowing water, and was annexed to the City of Glendale in 1912. By 1914, the Verdugo Pipe and Reservoir Company was one of several water utilities serving the city of Glendale. It served the district east of the Childs track, and had approximately 150 consumers attached to its 8 miles of pipe system.

In 1914, the City of Glendale filed a petition with the Railroad Commission of the State of California to fix and determine the compensation value for Verdugo Canyon Water Company properties and water rights. Glendale intended to use eminent domain to acquire the lands, property, and rights of local water companies selling water to those living in Glendale.

After the compensation value was fixed, the City of Glendale purchased the water rights of the Verdugo Canyon Water Company in order to control the water distributed in the city. This included the stock held by Verdugo Pipe and Reservoir Company and other stockholding companies, including Glendale Consolidated Water Company, Verdugo Springs Water Company, and Miradero Water Company.

Scope and Contents

The Verdugo Pipe and Reservoir Company Collection contains two ledgers that track the distribution of water to individuals in the Glendale and Verdugo Canyon area, and the company's maintenance and operating expenses. They provide insight into the financial records of an early 20th century water company and early water usage and distribution in the Verdugo Canyon area. On a broader level, the ledgers provide evidence of the issues of water rights and public utility management in Southern California. The first ledger includes records of water accounts for individuals, and government and public utility entities like the City of Glendale and the Southern California Gas Company. The second ledger is a monthly aggregation of individual accounts.

Subjects/Access Terms

Corporate Name: Verdugo Pipe and Reservoir Company
Verdugo Canyon Water Company

Topical Terms: Water rights
Public utilities--Management

Geographic Names: Glendale (Calif.)
Los Angeles County (Calif.)

Administrative Information

Processing Information: Mallory Furnier, 2019

Processing of collection and publication of finding aid made possible by generous donations from the [Community Foundation of the Verdugos](#) and the [Glendale Library Foundation](#).

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Conditions Governing Access: The collection is open for research use.

Preferred Citation: Verdugo Pipe and Reservoir Company Collection. Glendale Central Library History Room. Glendale Library, Arts & Culture.

Acquisition: Unknown

Collection Contents

Box 1

Item 1: Ledger, 1909-1916

Item 2: Ledger, January 1912-February 1916