

ELEVATION OF DAM AT 1,105

8/12/47
The highest blocks so far poured on Matilija dam have reached an elevation of 1,105, County Surveyor Robert Ryan told the board of supervisors of the Ventura county flood control district when he gave a roundup report this morning on the progress on the dam.

The top of the dam will be approximately at elevation 1,125. Ryan, citing round figures, said approximately 95,000 yards of earth have been excavated from the dam site and approximately 58,550 cubic yards of concrete have been poured. Grout piping totals 22,500 pounds.

ESTIMATE GIVEN

Estimate No. 12—for July—puts the value of work to date on the dam at \$1,444,523, with 10 percent held back on the value of the work pending completion of the project, and with allowance for the plant and materials on the land at \$25,841. The net amount accruing to the contractors is \$1,325,912, a total of \$1,213,466 having been previously paid. A total of \$111,530 has been expended to date for extra work, Ryan said.

Supervisors accepted the deed to the J. B. Cooke property in the Casitas dam site, the deed providing that Cooke receive \$19,230 for his property; he retains \$2,000 salvage rights. Supervisors also approved and ordered the chairman to sign drawings of the arch gate and block 0 for Matilija dam.

County Victor In Suit

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THE Ventura county flood control district has proved to be the victor in an action filed against the district by Atkinson Kier Bressi and Bevanda, contractors building Matilija dam.

An opinion handed down by Superior Judge Paul Vallee, who heard the declaratory relief case brought against the district by the contractors rules that the revised estimate on the dam as of June 16, 1947, does not constitute a job that is materially different from the one bid upon by the contractors. The contractors had contended that the revised estimate put the job beyond the scope of the work set out in the original plans and specifications.

JUDGE RULES

Judge Vallee held that the estimate doesn't constitute a material variance, that "the same dam is to be built, of the same height, of the same width, with the same bridge and with the same length arch. The only material variation is brought about by the necessity to excavate to solid foundation to insure the safety of the dam," the judge said.

"The extra work and material required by the order of June 24, 1947, was made necessary by difficulties in finding bedrock, unforeseen at the time the contract was made. Upon making the contract, the plaintiffs contemplated that they would have to excavate all material to bedrock and fill with concrete to bedrock. They agreed to do all work necessary to construct the dam. They knew that the quantities specified were only estimates and for that reason unit prices were asked for and they bid and contracted accordingly."

CITES CASES

Judge Vallee cited numerous cases in his opinion to back up his contention that the dam job was not a changed one. He also pointed out that one of the cases cited by the plaintiffs did not help their case, but, on the contrary, supported the district's position.

"Changes in the contract, additions to the work to be performed and the material to be furnished, some slight, some substantial, would almost inevitably be required in the construction of an undertaking of this magnitude," Judge Vallee declared. He said the emergency which arose was incidental to the prosecution of the work. He also pointed out that there is no showing that the cost of the extra work is more than it is reasonably worth nor is there even an intimation of fraud or dishonesty in the adoption of the revised estimate or in the making of the order of June 24.

WAGE DISPUTE ON DAM ENDS

8-1-47

With the new wage scale of the Associated General Contractors, master labor, now in effect, work on Matilija dam is back to normal production.

Cliff Mace, business representative of the carpenters local, today said that local carpenters, who walked off the job early in July over a wage pay dispute, were back on the job and that "everyone is happy."

SOME RETURN EARLIER

(Part of the local carpenters, however, didn't wait until today—when the new wage scale went into effect—to go back on the job. Part of them have been working with Los Angeles carpenters on the dam for the past week. The local carpenters had been ordered back prior to the new wage scale going into effect by international headquarters.)

NO COMMENT

Making no comment on the wage situation except to say that the new pay scale is in effect, Contractors Atkinson Kier Bressi and Bevanda reported that the dam work now is at normal production and that there is ample manpower on the job.

Work is progressing on two shifts, excavation on the apron section being well under way. Pouring is proceeding on the top of the dam, on the right abutment and in the "bear hole," the hole left by excavation of faulty material under N and M blocks on the left abutment.

STATE BOARD GIVES REPORT

What's the status of Mollisa dam? It can be safely completed to its originally contemplated height!

That was one of the conclusions reached Saturday at a meeting of state, county and project officials. The conclusions, as presented by the state dam consultant board follow:

1—It is unanimously agreed by state, county and project officials that the dam can be constructed to its original height.

2—O block, which lies just above N block on the left abutment, will be poured next and will be the terminus of the arch proper. The section above O will be a gravity section.

HEAVY SECTION

(This section will be heavy. The original dam plans by Warren called for a gravity section at the upper rings of the arch; this plan will continue to be followed but will be considerably larger than originally anticipated. Therefore, the cost, too, will be greater.)

3—The upstream side of N and M blocks will have a fillet, or an apron, 10 feet wide. This will be poured to tie M and N in solid sandstone and to cover the area where the shale seam was cleaned out.

REINFORCED

4—On downstream side the bottom of the two blocks will be flared out to abut against sandstone. (This will give twice as much bearing on solid sandstone as the width of the arch itself.)

5—After O has been poured, N block will be underpinned with concrete, the remaining soft material to be mined out and replaced with concrete. For the upper part of the concrete work in this area dry cement probably will be packed in so there will be no appreciable settlement as the concrete dries.

6—There will be some cleaning out, called "dental work" by engineers, of shale seams on the right abutment.

1947. AUGUST 4

\$40,000 APPROVED TO MINE OUT SOFT MATERIALS UNDER BLOCK A

County Supervisors Withhold Payment of \$60,000 Asked By Warren For Past Services; Dr. John Buwalda Held To Be In Agreement With Warren Plan

Soft material that might not last through normal wetting and drying action of the elements was reported to the Ventura County Supervisors this week in a letter from the Donald R. Warren Company on conditions under Block A at Matilija Dam.

Immediate payment of \$100,000 was asked for additional work at the meeting of the Supervisors, but only \$40,000 of it was granted, pending investigation of the situation by S. V. Prichard, legal consultant hired by the county.

By letter, the smaller sum was asked by the Donald R. Warren Co. to have the contractors mine out poor materials in the right abutment of the structure, on a cost-plus basis. After some hesitancy, this request was granted.

Warren, through Attorney Walter J. Fourn, asked \$60,000 for past services, but the board postponed action, when officials said they believe suits are threatened against the Ventura County Flood Control District.

The letter regarding the poor material under Block A on the right abutment said that samples of the shale seam had been tested at Cal-Tech, showing that the material as far as 10 or 12 feet down exhibits a tendency to soften under wetting and drying, "and it is doubtful whether the shale will resist the horizontal thrust of the dam without squeezing out after it has been saturated for months or years."

Dr. John Buwalda, Warren's consulting geologist, was reported in favor of removing the seam for the height of the arch thrust, and filling the void with concrete.

BEFORE 8-20-47

17 APPLICANTS FOR ZONE 1 JOB

Seventeen persons have been accepted as applicants to take the examination for zone one manager, Ventura county flood control district, Personnel Director Mahlon Turner announced today.

The examination will be given at the courthouse next Wednesday. Deadline for filing applications is noon tomorrow.

MANY FILE

Attorneys, engineers, accountants, business managers and the like are among those who filed applications for the job. Those who have qualified to take the examination include: Ray J. Anderson, Los Angeles, operator of a real estate business; Alan Blum, Inglewoods, sales manager from a dairy products firm; Cyril Barker, Los Angeles, store personnel manager; Frank Crutsinger, St. Louis, engineer; Edward Feldman, Chicago, attorney.

Herman Getner, Los Angeles, attorney; Walter Hall, Los Angeles, atom bomb project manager in Hanford, Wash.; Fred Lewis, Redondo Beach, public accountant; A. W. Lindlar, Los Angeles, USO director; Larry Maringer, San Francisco, engineer; Perry Ogden, Los Angeles, director of materiel for an aviation concern.

Nelson Phelps, Reseda, engineer; Clinton Redda, Los Angeles, administrative assistant, selective service headquarters; Keith Sternberg, assistant to the general manager of a mill products company; Neil Stiver, Ventura newcomer, engineer; James Walker, Hollywood, purchasing agent; Justin Whiting, Detroit, engineer.