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22d August, 1911.

Mr. Harold H. Blossom,
621 Timken Building, San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Blossom:-

I have received your letter of the 12th instant addressed to Miss Bullard, copy of yours of the 14th to J.H. Reed, copy of letter of Mayor Evans to you and of your reply, and copy of letter from Mr. Rouse. I have also received letters of the 14th and 15th and today your night letter of the 21st.

The latter was received as follows:

"Read plan also expression received. Goodhue's also. Your long letter received. Please wire your criticism on receipt of our Read plan. Allen estimates \$23,000 for west drive if Maple St. entrance is omitted. Can save three thousand if Sixth St. extended. Can sell dirt to them and save haul. Allen estimates than \$12,000 total. No planting included. Topo northwest just completed. Will send print tomorrow. Letter follows."

Evidently some words have become distorted. You have been pretty good about sending copies of your telegrams

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in your letters, but you had better make it a rule to do so.

I enclose check for the balance of your expense in connection with your house at Dedham, \$11.56.

I am glad to learn that Mr. Wangenheim agreed to the planting along the rest of the east border and a little along the south side near the southeast corner of Balboa Park.

I agree with you that from the Exposition point of view this east side planting is not as important as that of Cabrillo Cañon, but from the Park point of view it is much more so. Palms grow so slowly that I do not think they will be very impressive in Cabrillo Cañon during the Exposition year, and they will be costly to plant and costly to maintain in comparison with the east side planting. I think Cabrillo Cañon is very beautiful as it is, and palms are not needed to increase its beauty but rather as an attraction to visitors who are more interested in that sort of thing than in wild landscape beauty. It will be quite an advertisement to be able to say that there was a grove of 3500 palm trees to be seen in Balboa Park. On the other hand, the park

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landscape, especially from Midland Drive north of the nursery, will be greatly improved when the proposed east border plantation shall have grown up sufficiently to hide the houses.

With regard to meeting individual members of the Park Board, I think it would greatly strengthen our position for you to do so, if you can without objection. It seems to be practically the best way to get business done to talk it over informally with members of the Board before it is brought up for formal action, and in that way you have an opportunity to gradually educate them to an appreciation of some of the principles of park design, as you could not possibly do if your opportunities were limited to formal meetings. I think most of those men are glad of an occasional late afternoon trip in an automobile to ~~part~~ park of the park, and doubtless all of them have automobiles, so all you have to do is to suggest some little matter of a path or cutting a tree or a bit of planting or something of that sort as an excuse ^{for} going up on the ground and talking matters *with one of them. One at a time is far better than two at times.* over. It makes them feel that they are having some *influence* on the work even if you *should decide* desired to go contrary

to their opinions which may not always be wise ones.

With regard to Sixth Street extension north of Date Street, without having studied the profile, the amount of filling required, etc., I am very strongly inclined to think it is the only plan having any merit to lay out the street along the boundary, because that will induce a handsome frontage of apartment houses, etc. toward the park, which would hardly ^{be} likely to be the case if the extension of Sixth Street were on the east side of the little cañon and separated from private property by the cañon. I should not have the least objection to having only one sidewalk and to narrowing the drive to 32 feet or even to 24 feet if that would satisfy the speculators, but with the understanding that in some future time it could be widened still further when earth for filling should become available from cellar excavations, etc. If the question comes to be decided principally upon the score of cost, I should strongly advise the Park Commission to pay the difference rather than to run the drive along the east side of the cañon. As I remember the grades, the little short street from ^{Date St. to} 6th and ~~St. to~~ West Drive opposite the center line of

Fir Street would be excessively steep and comparatively of little use as a connection with Park Avenue, but if there is a strong inclination toward that solution of the problem I should certainly prefer it to continuing the drive all along the east side of the canon.

With regard to planting east of West Drive, my idea is to plant comparatively small groves of shade trees on the points and spurs where they would be of use for people to sit and enjoy the view, but to leave gaps as long as possible between one grove and the next where the ground slopes down fairly rapidly east of West Drive so as to keep the views open across the park from that drive. Hence I ~~conceive the~~ ^{conceive the} greater part of the planting as composed of creepers and low bushes, with stretches of some sort of ground cover answering for lawn where the slope is not too steep for people to be permitted to walk.

I agree with you that in general it is more dignified to have only one sort of tree in ~~the~~ street planting for at least a block at a time, preferably for

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several blocks, but I do not think the idea of alternating Dracaenas and other decorative plants with taller trees is so objectionable that we need protest against it in some particular cases. I think the climatic conditions at San Diego have led people more or less unconsciously to rather avoid the use of large shade trees in the streets and to prefer palms and other decorative trees and shrubs, the feeling being that the sun is not so strong or the climate not so hot in summer as to make shade so essential as in many other cities, particularly those further inland; but on the other hand the shade is decidedly objectionable during a large portion of the year, particularly in winter. The logical thing, it would seem, would be to plant deciduous shade trees with some decorative evergreens between, then there would be some evergreen effect in winter and plenty of shade in summer without the shade in winter. But the predilection is very strong in favor of evergreen trees ^{and} against deciduous trees which ^{would} almost invariably have an unpleasant suggestion during the winter of trees being dead. You may have noticed this same effect in our Eastern cities in the spring when almost all trees are in full foliage

but black walnuts and some other nut trees have not yet put out their leaves. I think this objection would be very noticeable where only a few deciduous trees were used mixed with evergreen trees, but I dare say that if the public should come to appreciate the advantages of deciduous trees as street shade trees and to plant miles of them one would be less struck by their incongruity in winter.

If the trees are to be planted alternately of different sorts with the distinct idea that one sort is to be cut out in the future, the choice in that case should be limited to trees which will be short lived or to such as are regarded as cheap as street trees. On the whole, I think it is safer to plant only permanent trees but to alternate small growing sorts with large growing ones, and the large growing kinds ought to be such as would admit of having branches trimmed up high so that the shade will not be too dense when the trees grow large.

With regard to narrowing Park Avenue, my preference would be to narrow the driveway by increasing the width of the planting spaces, but I know that there are a good many people who are impressed by the dignity

of a wide roadway more than they are by the beauty of two wide planting strips, and, as it would involve a considerable expense to make the change, I think the best policy at present would be to let the avenue remain as it is north of Juniper Street, but to narrow it south of that street on the plea that the full width would be too costly for construction and likewise for maintenance owing to the increased wash on the steep grade. It would be pretty awkward to narrow the sidewalk and tree planting strip ^{on W. side} or to eliminate the latter entirely south of Juniper Street, but I should even rather do that than to have the new road on the east side of the cañon, but with the understanding that the sidewalk and driveway could be widened at some future time.

With regard to our charge for your services, if the previous board did pass a vote continuing your services until further notice it will answer present purposes, and it may be policy to let it run along in that way than to press for another vote extending your employment to a definite date. I have my doubts though whether the previous board did pass a vote to which you refer. I remember bringing the matter up before the

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Buildings and Grounds Committee and they voted favorably on it, but when I asked Mr. Munroe whether he had notified the Park Board of that vote he looked at his records and found he had not done so. That was after ^(my inquiry) the new board had come in. It was then that I brought up the matter with Mr. Marston individually, but I presume he has not been in a position to press it. Mr. Dawson, just before he left San Diego, in a letter suggested that I write Mr. Marston about it, but I delayed doing so feeling that it might be irksome to Mr. Marston to take it up while more important matters are demanding his consideration, and I thought I would let it go for a month or two.

We ^{do not} enclose our bill against the Park Commission for July expenses. I am sorry there seems to be so much uncertainty about your stay at San Diego, but I do not see how it very well can be avoided. In saying in a previous letter that I desired the Park Board to renew your services to January 1st, I did not mean to intimate that that would be the date for your return East. It came about from my rough figuring that it would take until

then for what we receive above what we pay you to cover our non-chargeable expenses and to provide a sufficient sum for returning your family to the East. My idea is to get back in this way the \$200.00 we paid Cumming on account of discharging him so soon after his arrival.

With regard to repaving West Drive I felt that it was absolutely essential to do away with the present surfacing. I think, however, that it would be an economy worth considering to use tar macadam only on the steep part from Date Street up to the top of the hill and to surface all the rest with rotten rock, which, for the little travel they have there, would be very good so long as it is watered. I am inclined to think though that the cost of watering would more than equal the interest and sinking fund excess cost of tar macadam over rotten rock surfacing, considering that tar macadam would not need any watering at all.

I do not see why this estimate should be limited to the West Drive. It seems to me it is also

important to take up that asphaltic oil surfacing on Midland Drive from the Exposition Group to where the rotten rock surfacing begins.

As regards the item for maintenance, it seems to me outrageously bad municipal finance to charge maintenance ^{of} improvements in the park to borrowed money. It is in a way justifiable in the case of plantations but I do not think it is for drives. It would be better policy, therefore, if an adequate appropriation for maintenance cannot be obtained to spread improvements over a less area and to make them of such quality that the maintenance for some years will be exceedingly small, or in other cases to have plain dirt roads which would have proper culverts but in other respects would be as cheap as possible, and to make no pretense of keeping them up in good park shape but to keep them more like country roads - very poor in bad weather but fairly good in good weather.

I hope Mr. Goodhue will not have got too far with his plan before receiving mine, as I have made several suggestions for changing the shape of the buildings.

Yours very truly,