

San Diego, California
April twenty-ninth
Nineteen nineteen

To the Panama-Pacific International Exposition Commission
of the State of California -

Hon. William D. Stephens, Governor of California
Hon. Matt I. Sullivan, President of the Commission
Hon. Commissioners Chester Rowell, Marshall Stimson,
and Arthur Arlett.

Gentlemen:

April 1st, 1911, the State Legislature created a State Commission of the Panama-California Exposition of San Diego, California, and appropriated \$50,000 for preparing plans and constructing the foundations of the building to be erected at the Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park.

Governor Hiram L. Johnson soon after appointed the following Commissioners: Thomas O'Halloran, Louis Wilde, and George W. Marston. In May Mr. Wilde resigned and Governor Johnson appointed Russell C. Allen to take his place. The Commission was then organized by the election of George W. Marston as chairman and Thomas O'Halloran as secretary. From that time until now the Commission has remained unchanged in offices and personnel.

At a later date the State appropriated \$200,000 more for the California Building in San Diego and the present Commission acknowledges the receipt of a total of \$250,000 from the State of California.

In July, 1913, the Commission accepted the bid of the Wurster Construction Company for the construction of the main part of the California Building. This bid was \$243,532.50, but it did not include architects fees, \$15,341.63, services of inspector, \$1,445.00, services of clerk, \$393.38, plastering, \$8,820.00,

nor many miscellaneous expenses such as testing cement, legal services, etc.

The final cost of the structure was \$275,000, there having been advanced by the San Diego Exposition and Park Board the sum of \$25,000.

In view of this advance by the citizens of San Diego and the incompleteness of the building, our State Legislature appropriated in January, 1916, the sum of \$50,000 out of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition fund "for the purpose of the completion, maintenance and repair of the California State Building at the Panama-California International Exposition at San Diego." (Senate Bill Number 7, January 5, 1916.) By another act (Senate Bill Number 5, January 5, 1916), the Panama-Pacific International Exposition Commission of the State of California was authorized to accept and receive from the Panama-Pacific International Exposition Company the returns accruing to the State of California from the holding of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition.

Therefore, the Panama-California Exposition Commissioners of San Diego beg to lay before your honorable body the facts of this statement, with our urgent request that you will use your good offices to secure the \$50,000 that is due to San Diego and that you will deposit the same with the State Treasurer according to the Act of January 5, 1916.

It is of great importance that this money should be in our hands this year, and your attention is specially directed to the first and second paragraphs of Museum Director Hewett's letter of April 23d, a copy of which is attached. The building is evidently in danger of considerable injury if not protected very soon.

To be specific, the following work is necessary:

Grading and concrete work about the base of the structure to
protect the foundations and keep out water,

Repairs to the dome and other roof surfaces. Rain water actually
comes through the solid concrete and has badly disfigured the
ceiling.

Repair of many injuries from hard use during the Exposition.

Painting or tinting of ceilings and walls. Original funds were insufficient for proper interior decorative treatment, and consequently the main room has an unfinished appearance.

Heating plant sufficient for the whole California quadrangle.

Two thirds or more of the expense properly due from the California Building fund.

The above improvements will cost approximately \$25,000. The balance of the fund might well be spent on needed interior decoration, but if proper maintenance is considered only a part of the money can be so applied.

The question may arise in your minds, why should not the people of San Diego advance the sum of \$50,000 and wait for their reimbursement until the financial affairs of the P. P. I. E. Co. are completely ready for closing. Our answer is that San Diego has an enormous burden in taking care of the other buildings left on Balboa Park by the Exposition. They have been occupied for two years by United States Naval recruits but are now again in the hands of the Park Commissioners. It is proposed to establish in this group of choice buildings a civic center of the social, educational, and artistic life of our city. Libraries, art galleries, scientific collections, will be established here under the care of such societies as the San Diego Museum Association, the Natural History Society, and the Art Guild. Musical and dramatic societies will also have their halls in the same buildings. Having many treasures left by the Exposition, the city has already made a fine beginning in this enterprise. The initial cost is large and the maintenance will be continuous. May we not expect of our friends in the north their earliest possible assistance in completing the California Building which is the crowning structure of this whole architectural group?

The chairman of the San Diego Commission has recently had personal interviews with Hon. Matt I. Sullivan of your Commission and with President Charles C. Moore and attorney Max I. Kuhl of the P. P. I. E. Co., and it is by the suggestion of

all three of these gentlemen that this statement is prepared. Judge Sullivan has several times, both by letter and word, assured us that your Commission would expedite the settlement if it were possible. Messrs. Moore and Kuhl also expressed their interest in having an adjustment as soon as possible. We learn from them that the P. P. I. E. Co. has considerable cash and property on hand and that money has already been advanced to the San Francisco State Normal School, joint participant with our Exposition in the State appropriation. If the funds held by the P. P. I. E. Co. are measureably in excess of valid claims against the Exposition, the San Diego Commission feel that their claim for a present settlement is just and reasonable.

In saying this we express only moderately the deep feeling in the minds of our people in their earnest desire that the promised aid from the State may now be realized, after these three long years of waiting.

We appreciate the fact that the Panama-Pacific International Exposition Company has an adequate technical reason for not paying over this money to your Commission until the last dollar of pending claims is disposed of, but this might take such a length of time that the value of the State of California appropriation would be practically lost to the present generation. What we ask of you, gentlemen, is the favor of your united influence to induce the Exposition Company to take stock of their assets and liabilities and to decide the matter upon broad discriminating and just considerations. We do not expect them to assume financial risks but we hope their view of the possible contingencies will not be narrowly taken. May we not urge you, as a Commission, to present our appeal in the same spirit of friendly interest and full appreciation that your chairman, Judge Sullivan, has shown toward our case in personal conferences?

With this we hand you some descriptive papers and pictures. The admirable article, "The California Quadrangle", was written by Dr. Edgar L. Hewett, Director of the San Diego Museum, Director of the Museum of New Mexico, and a leading

authority in American research literature. San Diego is very fortunate in having such an eminent scientist and educator at the head of the cultural activities that center in Balboa Park. A reading of his paper gives an insight to the noble uses which the California Building may serve.

Our Exposition in San Diego was slight in size, compared to the great one in San Francisco, but by the generosity of the State it happily built a splendid permanent monument to the great Exposition period in California. It seems to us that all Californians, in the Northland as well as the Southland, should have pride in this superb building, undoubtedly the finest example of Spanish Colonial architecture in the United States. Therefore the San Diego Commissioners are confidently asking the cooperation of the Commissioners of the Northern Exposition in this effort to secure an early completion of the California Building and to maintain it in the dignity that its beauty and historical significance amply justify.

With great respect, we remain, gentlemen,

Yours very truly,