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Extracts from testimony of Mr.William Mulholland, Chief Engineer of the City of Los Angeles, California, in hearings before the Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation, House of Representatives, Sixty-Eighth Congress, First Session, on H.R. 2903, by Mr.Swing, A Bill to provide for the protection and development of the Lower Colorado River Basin.

(Part I - Pages 111 and 112)

MR.HAYDEN. There is another matter that I want to ask you about. I remember talking with you in Los Angeles this summer - I think it was you; at least, some one there told me that the quantity of water required to supply an acre of agricultural land, growing citrus fruits, for example, was about the same quantity as that which would be required to supply an acre of houses in that city.

MR.MULHOLLAND. That is, with the average distribution of residences in the city. There are district in a city, naturally, where there is a congested area; and, also, there are manufacturing areas that may use tremendously more than other parts of the city. But that is true; you take the mean quantity of water used and it runs about 2 acre-feet, spread all over the city, some parts of it sparsely settled and others densely settled.

MR.HAYDEN. The present average is about 2 acre-feet?

MR.MULHOLLAND. The present conditions require about that.

MR.HAYDEN. Then, if an orange grove on an irrigated section was taken in as an addition to the city of Los Angeles, the quantity of water that would be used by the houses which would be built on the land would be about the same as had heretofore been supplied to it for irrigation purposes?

MR.MULHOLLAND. That is true.

MR.HAYDEN. That was my recollection of the matter. If the city of Los Angeles doubles in population, or triples, as they talk out there, you will undoubtedly, take in considerable areas of irrigated land contiguous to the city; and the waters that are now used to irrigate that land could be used to supply the city population?

MR.MULHOLLAND. And the tendency from now on will be rather to intensify the density of the population. We are rapidly ap-

proaching an age of almost universal apartment houses; so that the density of population, the number per acre living on the land, would be greater than it is at the present time. We have a sort of diversity and diffuseness of population living on the lands in the city now, although there are some very populous areas. But that condition is changing; and the rule that you mention as being prevalent so far may not obtain, and will not obtain, later on. Our cities will become more and more densely occupied, so that the amount of water used per acre of land in the cities will be far greater than it is now.

MR.HAYDEN. Then it is your theory that the outer boundaries of the city will not be expanded, but the population within the present limits will be increased.

MR.MULHOLLAND. Yes, sir.

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