



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

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New Exhibit at Central Library Chronicles History of Dam Building in San Diego

SAN DIEGO – A new exhibit at the Central Library will focus on San Diego’s water history and the importance of this precious resource to the region. “The Quest for Water: A History of Dam Building in San Diego” will include photographs and artifacts on display at the Second Floor Corridor Gallery of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego. On display from June 1 through Aug. 31, the exhibit will be free and open to the public.

This new exhibit is the result of a 2004 agreement between the San Diego Public Library and the City of San Diego Water Department to preserve, inventory and catalog a collection of documents stored at the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant. The documents, which represent nearly 100 years of San Diego water history, include historic vintage photographs and negatives, an old San Diego phonebook, a director’s appointment calendar, blueprints, technical reports, correspondence, clippings from newspapers and magazines, and artifacts from the era of dam construction in San Diego.

Funded by the Water Department and using the technical expertise of the San Diego Public Library staff, this collaboration has resulted in the cataloging and preservation of more than 90,000 items so far. The collection is truly a unique resource for students of the water history of San Diego.

In addition to the exhibit, free guides are available with lists of resources of more information for people interested in learning more about San Diego’s water history.

The Central Library is open Mondays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call 619-236-5800 or visit the Library on the City’s Web site at www.sandiego.gov/public-library.

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