

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

CENTRAL PLYMOUTH COUNTY
WATER DISTRICT COMMISSION.

INTRODUCTION TO COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

The many years of "laissez faire" in dealing with water supply problems in Massachusetts have brought us to a dramatic day of reckoning. This extended drought which we are now experiencing has caused the fulfillment of the dire predictions of our engineers. Words cannot exaggerate and reports cannot over emphasize the hazards of the present conditions of water supply in the Central Plymouth County Water District.

Delays in diversion of water supply from secondary ponds to the principal area source of our water, Silver Lake, is the main cause of our precarious position.

Our commission must expedite all possible plans to utilize effectively all area water resources, not only the utilization of surface water supplies, but also of ground-water sources. It is paradoxical that the economic loss and outright hardships of this situation are so unnecessary if we will only move to utilize our total water resources. Our continued area growth must not be blocked by this scarcity born of neglect in the midst of plentiful water availability.

A brief synopsis which comprises the Commission's report and the detailed study and report of the Commission's consulting engineers are attached.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL PLYMOUTH COUNTY WATER DISTRICT COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE WATER RESOURCES OF THE CENTRAL PLYMOUTH COUNTY DISTRICT.

To the General Court of Massachusetts:

The Central Plymouth County Water District Commission hereby submits its report relative to the Water Resources of Plymouth County as authorized by Chapter 371 Acts of 1964 which read in part as follows:

"The commission shall, in cooperation with and with the advice of the State Department of Public Health, the department of agriculture and the water resources commission, investigate available surface and subsurface sources of water supply for the district, and shall study the water supply needs and resources of Plymouth county and the adjacent portions of Norfolk county, with priority given to the study of Cleveland Pond in Abington, and to ground water in the city of Brockton and the towns of Hanson, Halifax, East Bridgewater and Whitman.

The commission shall also investigate all pertinent matters relating to the quantity of water required, the quantity of water to be obtained from available sources, its quality, the best method of protecting the purity of the water, the construction operation and maintenance of the works for storing, conveying or purifying the water and the cost of the same, the damages to property and all other matters pertaining to the subject."

The Commission has therefore entered into a contract with water supply consultants, Camp, Dresser & McKee of Boston to prepare a report on water resources of the District. The Consulting Engineers report is attached as Appendix A.

Due to insufficiency of time, and of funds, the studies that were made and covered by this report concern only potential surface

water supplies. Additional ground-water studies were confined to a review of existing data. Development of ground-water resources can be studied when necessary funds therefor are appropriated for the Commission's use, and the necessary time granted to the Commission to study and report on that phase of its work. Ground-water sources, if found to be available near points of concentrated needs may be far cheaper than more distant surface water supplies.

The study made clear the necessity of developing area and District planning for the preservation, enhancement, and equitable allocation of water from areas of supply to areas of usage. Taken into full account must be the development of multiusage of water for domestic consumption, agricultural requirements, the preservation and enlargement of recreational usage, and industrial and other uses. The comparative cost of developing the alternate supplies expressed clearly in dollars per million gallons is provided to aid decisions to implement this study.

The amounts and locations of usable surface water within the District and the qualities of this water are now known and fully reported in this study. The problems of creating maximum storage of available surface water at advantageous sites have been investigated and reported on. The anticipated increase in the usage of water for all purposes, and the means of creating additional reservoir supplies to meet the increased usage are also investigated and charted in the Commission's surface water study. The finalizing and completion of a ready-to-go plan of operation should be the continuing work of the Commission.

It is also established by this study that the District can draw upon and make available surface water now largely wasted. With this water utilized and with adequate storage and distribution, the District's needs for many years of predicted expanded usage can be met.

It is now fully established that the supply capacity of Silver Lake, the primary supply of the Brockton water system, has been grossly overdrawn for a number of years and that the resources of its natural watershed are incapable of meeting the demands placed upon it.

Furthermore, because of delays in supplementing this supply, it is evident that recurring periods of natural drought can bring the water supplies of the communities in the District to the verge of disaster, as present conditions now forcibly demonstrate.

It becomes evident, therefore, that the water resources available to the District must be expanded and more fully and efficiently utilized and that plans to accomplish this should be promptly prepared. The completed construction for diversions of water from Furnace and Monponsett Ponds constitute a first step in that direction. A second step would be the utilization of wasted water from Pine and Howard Brooks by diversion into Silver Lake. This would ensure water to the towns making up the District for well into the future.

Conclusion:

It is apparent that area water resource planning, including allocation thereof, is a definite need to insure adequate water supplies from surface water sources through efficient utilization of available watersheds. The Commission should be enabled to conclude its work with the establishment of a completed program of surface water management for the mutual benefits of the entire District.

It is most definitely advisable that the Commission be enabled to undertake the phase of its work, namely, the study of ground-water resources within the District. To this end, it has filed for an appropriation and for the necessary time to conclude this phase of its work. The Commission respectfully requests favorable action on this appropriation and time extension. The solution of the matter of adequate water supply is vital to the District. The Commission's work, while completed to the extent that available time and money permit, is only partially done. The District looks forward to its being given the means of completing its job.

Legislation:

The Commission feels strongly and accordingly recommends that work be authorized promptly on the planning for the utilization of water from Pine and Howard Brooks as briefly outlined above and fully covered in its study; also that funds be made available for the previously described investigations of ground-water sources

and the completion of the scope of work, as directed originally by the Legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

HERBERT H. WYDOM, *Chairman*
ROBERT C. ANDREWS, *Secretary*
PHILIP E. CAREY, *Treasurer*

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Six.

AN ACT EXTENDING THE TIME WITHIN WHICH THE CENTRAL PLYMOUTH COUNTY WATER DISTRICT COMMISSION SHALL MAKE ITS FINAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL COURT.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to
2 defeat its purpose, which is, in part, to immediately extend the
3 time within which the Central Plymouth County Water Dis-
4 trict Commission shall make its final report to the general
5 court with plans and estimates of the available water re-
6 sources and needs of said district, therefore it is hereby de-
7 clared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 3 of chapter 371 of the acts of 1964 is hereby
2 amended by striking out the sixth paragraph and inserting
3 in place thereof the following paragraph: —

4 The commission may report to the general court from time
5 to time with plans and estimates, and its recommendations, if
6 any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its
7 recommendations into effect, but shall file its final report on
8 or before the fourth Wednesday in January, nineteen hundred
9 and sixty-eight.

SECRET

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CONFIDENTIAL

January 10, 1950

The following information was received from the
[redacted] regarding the activities of the [redacted] in
[redacted] and [redacted] during the period [redacted] to [redacted].
It is noted that [redacted] and [redacted] were active in
[redacted] and [redacted] during the period [redacted] to [redacted].
The [redacted] of [redacted] and [redacted] were [redacted] and [redacted].

Very truly yours,

[redacted]

