

“There It Is – Take It”:

William Mulholland Deals Water To Los Angeles

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Individual Exhibit

Process Paper: 497

Student-Composed Words: 487

Upon learning of this year's topic, Leadership and Legacy, I immediately wanted to pick a topic that's legacy is relevant to America today. I also wanted to select a topic that has history local to Los Angeles so I could have access to primary documents. While researching many California leaders I found William Mulholland. Mulholland's pride and joy, the Los Angeles Aqueduct, is directly related to the drought that California is currently experiencing, which impacts everyone in the state including myself. This was the perfect topic because Mulholland was an amazing leader, has relevance to today's drought, and has a controversial legacy that had potential for deep research and multiple points of view. As I researched, I found that Mulholland was not an entirely ethical leader, and this fact intrigued me and encouraged me to focus my project on Mulholland's legacy, both beneficial and detrimental, for Los Angeles.

I found many primary and secondary sources for my exhibit. Some of the best primary sources were from Mulholland's granddaughter's novel "William Mulholland and The Rise of Los Angeles". The biography's "works cited" section led me to resources from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and many historical Southern California archives. Additionally, the UCLA Library has an archive specifically for the LA Aqueduct, which provided excellent primary sources.

After competing last year in the exhibit category, I knew I wanted to compete in it again. This project is excellent for an exhibit because it has many photographs and visuals, including the aqueduct. For the board, I purchased rustic wood and constructed a tri-fold with a base and roof. The information flows chronologically along the aqueduct, which was cut from foam and covered with imitation water. The roof of the exhibit holds the title, hanging from chain, and has lights to illuminate the back of the board. The base represents the contrast today between the

Central California side, complete with an image of an arid farm, and the Southern California side, with turf and a plastic pool.

My exhibit directly relates to the theme Leadership and Legacy because it centers on William Mulholland's leadership and his controversial legacy. Mulholland led thousands of men in the construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct. He also used his leadership and determination to sell the idea of the aqueduct to the Los Angeles City Council, pass several bond measures to fund the project, and buy (albeit illegally) the land and necessary water rights. His legacy was beneficial to Los Angeles, as he built the aqueduct that allowed the city to grow exponentially and become the hub of industry it is today. However, his legacy was also detrimental because his aqueduct destroyed the ecosystem of the Owens Lake. He took all of the land and water rights away from the people of the Owens Valley. He gave money to the rich landowners, and took it from the poor farmers, making an early contribution to the present 1% / 99% economic phenomenon in California.

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Sources

"California Drought." *FarmsReach*.

This article is from the point of view of the farmers, and contains a photo of dry farmland with a sign saying "Food Grows Where Water Flows", which I used on my exhibit.

"California's Water Crisis." *Illumin*. Illumin.

This article was about the water crisis in California today and how Mulholland affected it.

Clayton, John. "British Merchant Navy and US Merchant Marine: John Clayton, Traveling Boy." *Sitewide RSS*.

This has a photo from the British Merchant Marines, which Mulholland was a part of, as well as information about the organization.

Gorman, Steve. "Drought Forces California Farmers to Idle Cropland." *Reuters*.

This source describes the struggles farmers are going through in the drought in California presently.

Guthrie, Woody. *Pastures of Plenty*. 1941. CD.

This CD by Woody Guthrie captures the feelings of the west. It is used in the multimedia display on the base of the exhibit.

Halsey, Mina Deane. "Ch. 6." *A Tenderfoot in Southern California*. New York: Printed for the Author by J.J. Little & Ives, 1908. N. pag. Print.

This book humorously describes what Los Angeles was like before the aqueduct. Halsey describes the dust and rundown nature of the town.

Hyde, Charles Gilman. "P. 270." *Complete Report on Construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct; with Introductory Historical Sketch; Illustrated with Maps, Drawings and Photographs..* Los Angeles: Dept. of Public Service, 1916. 270. Print.

This report from 1908 describes the bond measures passed and the different means of fundraising the aqueduct.

"Jawbone Siphon Under Construction." *Los Angeles Aqueduct*. SCV History, n.d. Web. 11 Mar. 2015.

This article has a picture of the Jawbone Siphon, a segment of the aqueduct, when it was first opened.

*Joseph Barlow Lippincott Collection*. UC Berkeley Water Resources Center Archives.

This source had many pictures from the aqueduct's construction and opening.

"Joseph Barlow Lippincott Papers, 1882-1942." *Online Archive of California*.

The Online Archive of California has over 800 primary documents from the construction and planning of the aqueduct, including maps, blueprints, and notes from Mulholland himself.

Lochhead, Carolyn. "California's Drought-prone Pattern Forcing Farmers to Adapt." *Davis Enterprise*. San Francisco Chronicle, 25 Mar. 2014. Web. 06 Feb. 2015.

This article contains information about how farmers must adapt to the new dry conditions on their farms and how it's affecting them.

"Los Angeles Aqueduct Digital Platform." *Los Angeles Aqueduct Digital Platform*. UCLA Archives.

This database, provided by the UCLA Library, provides all archives related to the aqueduct and Mulholland online. It includes blueprints, newspaper articles, and much more.

"Mono Lake Case Study." *TED Case Study*. Trade Environment Database (TED).

This case study shows all the data on the Mono Lake environment depletion and discusses the causes of it, primarily the aqueduct.

Mulholland, Catherine. *William Mulholland and the Rise of Los Angeles*. Berkeley: U of California, 2000. Print.

This biography by William Mulholland's granddaughter describes Mulholland's, relatively free of bias. The book has many primary sources and quotes from Mulholland directly said to the author.

"Owens Valley Salty As Los Angeles Water Battle (Flows Into Court." *NPR*. NPR, 11 Mar. 2013.

This article is about how the Owens Valley feels today about their rights being taken away by Mulholland and the lasting effects of the aqueduct.

"Population by City, 1850 - 1900." *Population by City*. Los Angeles Almanac,

The almanac provides the population of several California cities from 1850-1900.

"Resistance to the Aqueduct." *Los Angeles Aqueduct Digital Platform*. UCLA Archives, 31 Oct. 2013.

The UCLA Digital Platform has many primary documents, including the political cartoon in this article, which shows the public's view on the aqueduct.

"Severe Drought Impacts to Central Valley Agriculture Forecast This Year." *California WaterBlog*. UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences, 19 May 2014.

This source has many statistics on the cost of the water shortage in the central valley and the effect of the aqueduct today.

"Titanic Project To Give City A River." *Los Angeles Daily Times* 29 July 1905. Print.

This article from the LA Daily Times shows the bias towards Mulholland that the newspaper showed due to the bribes they received from Mulholland.

"Water Department's Original Office Building." *Water and Power Associates Informing the Public about Critical Water and Energy Issues Facing Los Angeles and California*. Water and Power Associates.

This source has photos of the original water department, and information about how the public water sector ran at the time.

"Zanja Madre- LA's Original Aqueduct" *Water and Power Associates Informing the Public about Critical Water and Energy Issues Facing Los Angeles and California*.. Water and Power Associates.

This source provides many photographs from the time of the *Zanja Madre*. It also provides details on the *zanja* system and how it was used before the aqueduct.

## Secondary Sources

"A Brief Overview: Recent Owens Valley Water History and OVC." *Recent Water History*. Owens Valley Committee.

This article from the Owens Valley Committee describes the Reclamation Service's role in the aqueduct and also gives the perspective of the Owens Valley residents.

Arnold, Craig Anthony. "Privatization of Public Water Services: The States' Role in Ensuring Public Accountability." *Pepperdine Law Review* 32.3 (2005).

This journal article goes into depth about the role of states in privatizing water. This directly applies to what happened to the LADWP and the LA Water Co.

"Biographical Notes William Mulholland." Wandering Lizard History.

This source provides information about Mulholland's early life in Ireland.

"Construction Begins." Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

This article from the LADWP describes the construction of the aqueduct and the manpower necessary.

"Early Statehood: 1850 – 1880s: The Rise of Los Angeles." *Picture This: California* "Early Statehood: 1850 – 1880s: The Rise of Los Angeles." Oakland Museum of California.

This article describes how Los Angeles grew from a small *pueblo* to a large urban city because of many factors.

"Historical Timeline of Los Angeles." *Discover Los Angeles*. Nov. 2014.

This source has a timeline of all of the major events in Los Angeles history, providing historical context to the project.

"History." *Water History*. Water Education Foundation.

The Water Education Foundation provides many articles about water history throughout the United States, including Southern California water history.



Hundley, Norris. *The Great Thirst: Californians and Water a History*. Berkeley: U of California, 2001. Print.

This book describes the water history of California. Specifically, I used the section on the San Fernando Land Syndicate.

Lambert, Tim. "A Brief History of Belfast." *A History of Belfast*.

This source provides information on Belfast, the birthplace of William Mulholland and the place where he grew up. It describes the terrible conditions that existed at the time.

Lambert, Tim. "A Short History of Los Angeles, California." *Local Histories*.

This article provides information on how Los Angeles was formed and what life was like in the small *pueblo* it was.

"Los Angeles Aqueduct." *History Channel*. A&E Television Networks.

This article includes information on the background of the aqueduct, the construction of it, and its legacy on the U.S.

McDougal, Dennis. *Privileged Son: Otis Chandler and the Rise and Fall of the L.A. times Dynasty*. Cambridge, MA: Perseus Pub., 2001. Print.

This book tells the story of Otis Chandler, one of the publishers of the L.A. Times. It describes how he was involved in the corruption of the San Fernando Land Syndicate and how he was involved in putting out propaganda in exchange for money and land.

"Owens Valley Water History (Chronology)." *Inyo County Water Department*.

The Inyo County Water Dept. provides a detailed timeline of events surrounding water in the Owens Valley.

Paddinson, Joshua. "1866-1920: Rapid Population Growth, Large-Scale Agriculture, and Integration into the United States." *California Cultures*. University of California.

This article, provided by the University of California, has information on the population growth of Los Angeles into 1900 and discusses the causes of the boom.

"Past." *Water*. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

The LADWP provides several articles concerning the history of the department. This specific article focuses on the growth of Los Angeles and how it affected the water system.

"There It Is - Take It." *Owens Valley and the Los Angeles Aqueduct, 1913–2013*. National Endowment for the Humanities.

This source has a plethora of information regarding the formation of the aqueduct. There are several chapters which delve into different topics, such as the city of L.A., attaining the land for the aqueduct, and others.

"The LA Aqueduct." U.S. Top Ten Public Works Project. LADWP Centennial, 2013. Web. 11 Mar. 2015.

This article describes the construction of the aqueduct and why it was needed. It also describes the legacy of the aqueduct on Los Angeles today.

"The Owens Valley Land Grab." Owens Valley History.

This article describes the process by which Mulholland and Eaton obtained the land and water right for the aqueduct illegally.

"The Story of the Los Angeles Aqueduct." *Los Angeles Aqueduct*. LADWP.

This resource from the LADWP has detailed descriptions of the pre-work on the aqueduct, its construction, and its effects.

"Villain and Visionary." *Los Angeles Aqueduct Digital Platform*. UCLA Library, 31 Oct. 2013. Web. 11 Mar. 2015.

This article compares Mulholland's positive contributions to his negative ones. It shows an opposing viewpoint to the completely positive reputation of Mulholland.

"Water in the West." *National Parks Service*. U.S. Department of the Interior.

The National Parks Service provides more information on the Reclamation Service and their plans to irrigate central California.

"William Mulholland Biography." *Water and Power Associates*.

This bibliography of Mulholland tracks his childhood and move to the U.S, and then his contributions to the water industry in Los Angeles.

"William Mulholland." *New Perspectives on the West*. PBS, 2001. Web.

This source from PBS is a short biography of Mulholland and the work he did for Los Angeles. It also describes his early life and how it made him the leader he was.