

Water for Fighting Fire

The heat wave and attendant fires have again highlighted one of our thorniest problems: Water.

Up to now we have relied on meteoric water, rain and snow, for our supply. Which is very limited on account of low precipitation. Its limits have been reached and surpassed.

Many regions could with advantage use great quantities of spring water which is independent of rain.

Antelope Valley today uses much such water, a multiple of the precipitation on adjacent watersheds. But even there only perhaps 25% at most are utilized.

The rest runs a distance underground and disappears into sinkholes and goes via underground rivers into the sea. One such large river drains the Lake Elizabeth-Gorman Valley and another arm great parts of the Antelope Valley. It goes out to sea via the Soledad Canyon and Santa Clara rift.

Southern California is

blessed with unusual quantities of such waters. There are simply thousands of such springs which produce from 50 to over 5000 gallons per minute. The only problem is finding them.

They have been running for many thousands of years and have developed pipe lines of very limited cross-sections.

Competent water finders have no difficulty in finding same. These water resources, occurring mainly in hilly regions above and below ground, should be developed to make such catastrophes as in San Dimas impossible.

The Fire Departments should also develop such waters in regions without large mains, to utilize tankers to their best capacity. One such truck could replace many if the filling time is in seconds and the run in fractions of a mile.

Much property and even lives could be saved this way.

FREDERICK G. HEHR,
Santa Monica.

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