Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Duane L. Georgeson Papers

Dates: 1959-2011

Identification: URB/DLG

Creator: Georgeson, Duane L., 1935-

Physical Description: 8.18 linear feet

Language of Materials: English

Repository: Urban Archives

Abstract: Duane L. Georgeson worked as a civil engineer for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Metropolitan Water District. The Duane L. Georgeson Papers document his 53-year career working as an engineer with water and water systems in Los Angeles, during which time he worked to improve and impact water policies and procedures in Southern California, contributing to the political and economic water climate currently in place today.

Biographical Information:
Duane Georgeson was born in Maddock, North Dakota in 1935. When he was ten years old he moved with his family to the San Fernando Valley. He enrolled at the University of California Los Angeles in 1953, graduating in 1957 with a degree in engineering. Having an interest in Civil Engineering, he applied for a job with the California Department of Water and Power (DWP) soon after graduation. He was hired in 1959, and within six months was promoted to a Civil Engineering assistant. He was continuously promoted throughout his career with DWP, most notably being promoted to Head of Engineering two months before a major earthquake hit Los Angeles in 1971. He eventually became Chief Engineer of Water Works and Head of Water Systems. In 1990 he transferred to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, (MWD) as Assistant General Manager. He remained with MWD for several years before becoming an outside water systems manager. He retired in May of 2012.

Genre/Form of Material:
Paper records
Photographic material
Publications

Processing Information:
Sara Pacheco, 2013

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Related Materials:
Cataloged materials from this collection are available in the Library Catalog.

Arrangement of Materials:
Series I: Los Angeles Water Supply, 1924-2009
   Subseries A: From Existing, 1960-2006
   Subseries B: Owens Valley and Mono Lake, 1924-1993
   Subseries C: California State Water Project, 1948-2009
   Subseries D: News Clippings, 1972-1989
Series III: Conferences and Professional Associations, 1970-2009
Series IV: Personal Files, 1966-1995

Scope and Contents
The Duane L. Georgeson Papers documents the career and influence of Duane L. Georgeson throughout his professional career with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Metropolitan Water District. During his 53 years working as an engineer with water and water systems, Georgeson influenced many important factors regarding the water policies and procedures of Southern California, contributing to the political and economic water climate currently in place today. The collection includes articles, correspondence, reports, maps, pamphlets, flyers, advertisements, and photographs. It consists of four major series: Los Angeles Water Supply (1924-2009), International Water Policy Files (1978-1997), Conferences and Professional Associations (1970-2009), and Personal Files (1966-1995).

Series I, Los Angeles Water Supply, contains materials focusing on water sources and water systems for Los Angeles County. This includes material on the Owens Valley, Mono Lake, and the State Water Project. The series consists of articles, reports, pamphlets, maps, presentation materials, advertisements, correspondence, photographs, and other materials documenting Georgeson’s involvement with Southern California water issues and legislation. The series has been divided into four subseries: From Existing Sources (1960-2006), Owens Valley and Mono Lake (1924-1993), California State Water Project (1948-2009), and Newspaper Clippings (1972-1989), all of which are filed alphabetically, with the exception of Newspaper Clippings which is filed chronologically.

Series II, International Water Policy Files, documents Georgeson’s work as a water consultant in foreign countries. Additionally, it contains reports and guides for different water infrastructure and their corresponding locations, as well as materials he collected in preparation for and during his travels as he reviewed international water systems. The series includes booklets, maps, photographs, flyers, reports, correspondence and other documentation regarding global water systems and policies. Materials are filed alphabetically.

Series III, Conferences and Professional Associations, documents the special issues and topics pertaining the water systems and legislation in which Georgeson was involved. It includes documentation regarding the different professional associations Georgeson belonged to, as well as the different water and water systems conferences he attended. This series documents Georgeson’s extensive involvement with water special interest groups including, the American Water Works Association, the Colorado River Association and the Aqueduct Association. This series contains photographs, correspondence, minutes, flyers, reports, booklets, and articles regarding Georgeson’s outside involvement with water current events. The materials are filed alphabetically.

Series IV, Personal Files, documents the personal details of Georgeson’s life and career as he advanced professionally and became an authority in his field. This series includes his personnel folder with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and documents his achievements and correspondence with influential professionals and staff members. It includes correspondence, photographs, plaques, certificates, and articles pertaining to Georgeson’s accomplishments and is filed alphabetically.

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