Inventory of the San Diego & Arizona Railway/Tijuana & Tecate Railway Collection, 1928-1929

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Collection number: MS 59

California State Railroad Museum Library

Sacramento, California

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Collection Description

The typewritten report upon balance sheet audit of accounts as of December 31, 1929 (166 pages in a binder) was prepared in 1929 for the Board of Directors of the J. D. and A. B. Spreckels Securities Company, probably in preparation for the sale of the railroad. It covers the history, cost, engineering features, structures, locomotives, rolling stock, indebtedness, and investments of the San Diego & Arizona and Tijuana & Tecate. In addition to the text, the reports contain charts, tables and photographs, as well as photocopies of a description of the San Diego & Arizona records donated by Southern Pacific to the University of California, San Diego, magazine articles on the railroad, and the
arrangements made in 1970 to transfer the Tijuana & Tecate to the Mexican government.

**Historical Background**

Incorporated in 1906 by sugar magnate and land developer John D. Spreckels, the San Diego & Arizona Railway was built east from San Diego to El Centro in California's Imperial Valley. There it connected with a branch of the Southern Pacific. Part of the San Diego & Arizona's route, from San Ysidro to near Tecate, ran through northern Baja California, Mexico, and was known as the Tijuana & Tecate Railway (Ferrocarril Tijuana y Tecate).

The road was completed in 1919, and in 1932 was sold to the Southern Pacific by the Spreckels interests. Southern Pacific operated it as the San Diego and Arizona Eastern. In 1970, Southern Pacific sold the Tijuana & Tecate to the Mexican government. A hurricane in 1976 damaged large portions of the remainder of the line, and Southern Pacific sought to abandon it. The San Diego Metropolitan Transit Development Board currently controls the line.