

through a pipe line to be constructed along 14th Street from the Western Harbor front, and delivering this water into Lake Merritt through cascade fountains located at certain points around the lake. The present inlet to the lake should then be utilized as an outlet only, through a concrete conduit constructed in the present estuary channel. This will permit the filling of the channel and the utilization of this valuable area between Lake Merritt and the waterfront for commercial or recreation purposes. This plan will not only provide an unlimited supply of clean salt water for the lake, thus eliminating the present unhealthful settling basin condition of the water, but it will also provide a most valuable addition to our high pressure salt water fire prevention system. As I have before pointed out, the installation of this improvement should bring about a material reduction in the insurance rates in the downtown district. This supply of water could also be made available to the hotels, the Athens Athletic Club and other clubs, and thus provide them, if they so desire, with a source of supply for salt water plunges and baths.

Another advantage of the completion of this plan would be the possibility of establishing a bathing beach for the children of Oakland at the location of the present small wading beach maintained near the band stand. The supply of clean water will do away with the present inflow of estuary water fouled by oil and other waste matter, and will make it possible for our children to be taught to swim at this place in the lake.

I have previously recommended to the Council that the land lying back of the Auditorium from First Street to 10th Street be filled and utilized, and have called attention to the fact that between First and 8th Streets, Fallon Street and 5th Avenue, there are 100 acres of available property with a value to the city of \$6,000,000, to be reclaimed and used. The dredging of Lake Merritt, which is now approaching completion, has provided material which has been utilized to make an excellent filling for this low land and progress on the work is proceeding very satisfactorily.

I believe the members of the Council will be interested in learning that had the city condemned the present roadway and park area along Lake Merritt between Harrison and Oak Streets, the value of the land alone would have amounted to over \$500,000. This information was given to me by persons familiar with property values in this location.

RECREATION DEVELOPMENT.

That portion of the city's property lying between 7th and 8th Streets, Fallon Street and the Estuary, has been completely filled and leveled and assigned to the Recreation Department for equipment as a centrally located downtown recreation ground. The Recreation Department is now installing facilities there for a baseball field, football field, and a running track. Bleachers are also being erected and it is our hope that the school children of our city can hold their city-wide inter-school track and field meets on this new playground in the coming spring. This track joins the Auditorium on the south, and will make it possible for School athletic contests to be held here, followed by literary exercises in the Auditorium, or an aquatic program on the lake, all as a part of the same general program.