

**LOS ANGELES HAPPENS. JUST ADD WATER.**

*The*

# **WATERWAY**

**A NEW MUSICAL**

**[THEWATERWAYMUSICAL.COM](http://THEWATERWAYMUSICAL.COM)**



## ABOUT THE SHOW

**THE DELIVERY OF WATER TO LOS ANGELES AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY GIVES RISE TO ONE OF THE GREATEST CITIES IN THE WORLD.**

In *The Water Way*, the transformation of Los Angeles from humble Spanish pueblo to one of the largest metropolitan centers in the world is recounted from the perspective of its first resident, the L.A. River, along with the oligarchs and public officials who develop and nurture this erstwhile arid desert. Through real estate speculation, businessmen such as railroad tycoons Moses Sherman and Henry Huntington coax an ambitious nation to move west, while *L.A.* *Times* publisher General Harrison Grey Otis and his son-in-law Harry Chandler use the power of the press to sculpt public opinion in favor of a 233-mile aqueduct.

Despite competing self-interests, dubious motivations, and the deadly collapse of the St. Francis Dam, the determination of Irish immigrant William Mulholland and native son Fred Eaton to bring faraway water to a parched population empowers the City of the Angels to ascend.

This is their story, as well as it is ours.

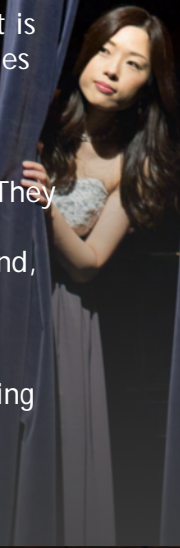
# WRITTEN FOR THE STAGE; PERFECT FOR THE SCREEN



With the popularity of musicals premiering on streaming platforms such as *The Prom* on Netflix, could *The Water Way* be next?

Remarkably, the producers say, “Yes.”

- Originally written for the stage, the timing is perfect to present *The Water Way* as a film or limited series. With 20 original songs, dancing, laughter, and tears, audiences will find this story of the birth of Los Angeles as engaging as it is hummable.
- Audiences will learn how a small Spanish pueblo of 9000 inhabitants and limited resources is transformed into the international megalopolis that is Los Angeles -- all due to the delivery of water from a river over 200 miles away.
- They will meet silent movie stars Harry Carey and William S. Hart, and newspaper magnates Harrison Grey Otis and William Randolph Hearst. They will take a front row seat to the wheeling and dealing, the duplicitous motivations, and the honest, hard work of people like William Mulholland, who builds the first major infrastructure for a thirsty Los Angeles.
- And, alas, they will experience the tear-drenching heartbreak of unfathomable catastrophe, when the St. Francis Dam gives way, wreaking destruction upon its citizens.



*“It’s more than the origin story of Los Angeles; it’s a love story; a story of unfettered ambition; a story of progress; a story of corruption; a story of obstacles overcome; a story of misfortune; a story of tenacity; a story of rehabilitation; but most of all, a story of the power of an idea to change the world.”*

*-- Braddon Mendelson,  
Playwright and Lyricist*

# MUSIC

[Listen to Our Song Demos Here](#)



Putting pivotal, dramatic and emotional aspects of this compelling story to music lends a depth and dimension that is both refreshing and exciting.

## Songs include:

Historical character statements and pondering:

- "THE ZANJA MADRE"
- "THAT MULHOLLAND DRIVE"
- "EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE"
- "PHILIPPINES"
- "VARIOUS THEORIES"

Social justice and human rights:

- "DRIBBLE, DRIBBLE"
- "MODERN WOMEN"
- "IMPORTANT AS WATER"

Love, longing and self-reflection:

- "IMPORTANT AS WATER"
- "THE CHIEF OF NOTHING"
- "DOWNSTREAM FROM THE DAM"
- "FRIENDLY TOWN OF SAUGUS"

Comedic, playful and fun:

- "DON'T TELL ANYONE"
- "THE UNFRIENDING TANGO"
- "CITY OF ANGELS"
- "HARRY CAREY'S LEGENDARY TRADING POST"
- "MOVIE COWBOYS"
- "CONCRETE DAMS"

...and more.

*"The story of how and why Los Angeles got water is not dry. It's a story full of intrigue and drama, with comedy and tragedy, an impactful and famous disaster, and more. Telling this story in the form of a musical offers a unique opportunity to relate an important piece of history to audiences in a fun and entertaining way."*

-- Jerry Danielsen,  
Composer



# SYNOPSIS

Page 1

## ACT ONE "River" (1875-1915)

**Note: ("SONG CUES") are capitalized with quotation marks and within parentheses.**

Enter Porciúncula -- the Los Angeles River personified -- our storyteller. Los Angeles is a pueblo of 9000 inhabitants. WILLIAM MULHOLLAND, an Irish immigrant and adventure-seeker, arrives at the age of 21 without a dime to his name.

FREDERICK EATON, supervisor of the privately owned Los Angeles Water Company, hires Mulholland to clear debris from the Zanja Madre. This "Mother Ditch" is a 90-mile-long trench through which water is distributed from the Los Angeles River to the residents, via small tributaries, or "zanjas," carrying the exposed water to residents and farmers ("THE ZANJA MADRE"). Impressed with Mulholland's work ethic, company president WILLIAM PERRY promotes him from lowly ditch tender to foreman.

Eaton and Perry marvel at Mulholland's ability to complete projects in record time and under budget ("THE MULHOLLAND DRIVE"). Perry promotes Mulholland to supervisor. Eaton takes a new job as the Chief Engineer for the City of Los Angeles.

Together Mulholland and Eaton face protestors decrying the poor quality and unreliable delivery of the water ("DRIBBLE, DRIBBLE").

As Mulholland and Eaton supervise respective construction projects, a REPORTER asks them about the soaring water bills. Mulholland says the drought is to blame, but Eaton asserts public ownership of the waterworks is the way to lower costs ("EXPERTISE").

Eaton announces his plan to run for Mayor of Los Angeles.

Eaton is elected mayor and urges voters to approve a \$2 million bond for the city to purchase the LA Water Company ("A BOND ISSUE #1"). Citizens line up to cast their votes.

A NEWSBOY hawking papers for the Los Angeles Herald newspaper reveals the bond has passed. In a victory celebration, Mayor Eaton makes Mulholland the Superintendent and Chief Engineer of the new public utility. Mulholland and Eaton introduce their wives LILLIAN MULHOLLAND and ALICE EATON ("MODERN WOMEN").

GENERAL HARRISON GREY OTIS, the powerful publisher of the Los Angeles Times, runs into the Newsboy and demands he throw out his copies of the Herald. Otis gives him a stack of L.A. Times to sell. Newsboy asks Otis why he always wears his military uniform even though the war is over. Otis explains that a newspaper is always at war ("PHILIPPINES").

The Newsboy announces the headline that the city faces water shortages from the drought.

Lillian pays a rare visit to her husband at his work, demanding he do something to improve the water quality, which she believes is making their children sick. She wishes he would include her more in his life ("MORE IMPORTANT THAN WATER"). She makes him

pledge to never stop working to bring fresh water to the people. Mulholland agrees. He knows they need a new water source. But where?

Eaton proposes to Mulholland a plan for a 233-mile aqueduct to deliver water from the Owens Valley. Though skeptical, Mulholland joins Eaton on a journey to the Owens Valley without revealing their true intentions to the public ("DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT OUR PLANS"). They stop for the evening, get drunk on whiskey, and toast their friendship.

In the morning, they reach the mouth of the Owens River, where Mulholland realizes the plan will work.

Eaton purchases land options from OWENS VALLEY FARMERS, being careful not to disclose his purpose lest the property owners hold out for higher recompense ("DON'T TELL ANYONE #2").

Unbeknownst to Eaton, a representative from the Federal government, engineer J.B. LIPPINCOTT, has already been engaging the farmers. The U.S. Reclamation Bureau plans a large-scale irrigation project. The farmers, enthusiastic about the government plan, mistakenly assume Eaton is also with the Reclamation Bureau and sign their deeds over to him.



**THE ZANJA MADRE**  
At Pershing Square in 1876.  
"That Muddy Waterway  
that Quenches"



**THE LOS ANGELES RIVER**  
aka "Rio Porciúncula"



# SYNOPSIS

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Mulholland convinces Lippincott to cooperate with Los Angeles to build its aqueduct. Although a serious conflict of interest, Lippincott decides to help them. He slips them the land surveys he has already completed for the reclamation department. Mulholland and Eaton locate a large parcel of land in nearby Long Valley that would be perfect for a needed reservoir. Posing as a rancher, Eaton buys the property from the owner for \$450,000, a bargain even in those days ("DON'T TELL ANYONE #3").

Lippincott explains much of the land required for the aqueduct crosses through federal territory. Eaton and Mulholland travel to Washington to convince President THEODORE ROOSEVELT to give Los Angeles the rights to the water. Roosevelt sides with Los Angeles over the farmers ("EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE").

Before Eaton transfers his land options to the city, he reveals his intention to sell the city half the water rights and retain the other half for himself. Mulholland is furious, insisting Eaton sell one hundred percent of the rights for the exact amount he paid. Furthermore, the federal government agreed to transfer the right-of-way to the land only if it is strictly used by the city.

## ACT ONE (Cont'd)

At the Inyo County Bank, FARMERS deposit their earnings from the sale of their riverfront property. They believe the buyer is the U.S. government, although they are confused about the relationship between Lippincott and Eaton. The bank owners, sisters MARIAM and WINIFRED WATTERSON, suspect something is fishy about the deals and vow to investigate the matter.

General Otis shares inside information about the city's aqueduct plans with his syndicate of real estate investors -- railroad tycoons and industry magnates -- who stand to gain huge profits once the water arrives. He conspires with his son-in-law HARRY CHANDLER to buy up land in the San Fernando Valley, which they will sell at a huge profit after the aqueduct project goes public ("DON'T TELL ANYONE #4").

As soon as Chandler returns with deeds to 20,000 acres of prime real estate, Otis orders the aqueduct story run in the morning's paper, encouraging voters to approve the 1.5 million dollars needed to purchase the land and then a subsequent \$24 million for construction ("BOND ISSUE #2"). Readers enthusiastically vote in favor of the project. The Newsboy announces Owens Valley River bonds have passed by an overwhelming majority. Mulholland begins building the aqueduct.

Owens Valley farmers, believing they were duped into selling their land, form the Owens Valley Property Association to fight the City of Los Angeles.

The Watterson sisters pledge their financial support to stop the "water grab," using any means possible. They

scheme to use their bank's assets to fund the resistance.

In a quintet performance ("DON'T TELL ANYONE #5"), five groups recount their respective plans:

- 1) The farmers conspire to blow up the aqueduct,
- 2) General Otis reiterates his ambitious real estate plans,
- 3) Eaton revels in his scheme to profit off the land sales,
- 4) Lippincott reinforces his plan to work for the federal government while freelancing for Los Angeles, and
- 5) The Watterson sisters decide to fund the resistance by embezzling from their own bank.

Citizens gather for the opening of the aqueduct. Acknowledging Eaton as the one who came up with the idea, Mulholland turns the valve, and we hear the rush of water. "There is it," he exclaims. "Take it." The crowd celebrates Mulholland's achievement ("MULHOLLAND DRIVE #2").

Lillian dies. Mulholland promises her he will continue bringing water to the city.

END OF ACT ONE



### Lillian Mulholland's Obituary

#### THE LAST SAD RITES.

Many Attend Services at Bier of Mrs. Mulholland—Floral Tributes of Great Number.

Hundreds of friends of William Mulholland gathered yesterday afternoon at the Cunningham & O'Conner chapel to pay their respects and sympathy at the bier of his wife. Many of these had sent their tokens of esteem in floral offerings which were wonderfully beautiful.

There were massive flower tributes from the Chamber of Commerce, the water department, the Board of Public Works and numerous other civic bodies. Just as unostentatious as had been the life of the woman was her funeral service. One of her final requests in life was that there should be no music when she had passed away, she having held that this was for festive occasions and also that it only made more poignant the grief of the mourners.

The opening of this obituary states William Mulholland's friends were in attendance, but nothing about Lillian's friends. One might deduce she had no friends of her own. A more likely explanation is women's identities at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century were defined almost entirely by their husbands – a notion she laments in the song "MODERN WOMEN."

# SYNOPSIS

Page 3

## ACT TWO “Relationships” (1916 -1928)

An Owens Valley farmer dynamites another section of the aqueduct at the town of Haiwee. Mulholland decides the city will need to build another reservoir, big enough to mitigate the effects of any further aqueduct sabotage. Mulholland already has the location: the ranch in Long Valley; however, the title is still in Eaton’s name. Eaton offers to sell half the property to the city for \$900,000, keeping the other half for himself, but Mulholland insists the city will only pay \$225,000, Eaton’s cost. He is again furious at Eaton’s desire to profit at the expense of the city.

Eaton counters that a 150-foot dam at Long Valley would create enough reserve water to capacity to meet the needs of Los Angeles AND the Owens Valley farmers. A bitter Mulholland says he no longer needs Eaton’s property for a reservoir, because he found a better location - San Francisquito Canyon. The two pals end their relationship (“THE UNFRIENDING TANGO”). The Owens Valley farmers recognize Eaton as the man who swindled them and give chase.

Publisher **WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST** enters and disposes of the Newsboy’s stack of Los Angeles Times, replacing them with his own publication, The Examiner. The Newsboy hollers the headline on the Examiner: The owner of the Los Angeles Times has been accused of using his position to gain inside information for shady real estate schemes. Otis bumps into Hearst. The two newspaper magnates

exchange barbs.

**TONY HARNISCHFEGER** asks **LEONA JOHNSON**, to marry him, but she does not like his itinerant lifestyle and needs him to be more stable. He promises to build her a grand chateau (“WAY UPSTREAM”).

The Newsboy announces the completion of the St. Francis Dam, with a height of 185 feet. Mulholland interrupts, explaining he made the dam twenty feet higher than planned. By increasing storage from 30,000 acre-feet to 38,000, it will retain more than a year’s supply. The Porciúncula enters and counters: “If you heightened the dam, shouldn’t you have also widened the base?”

Mulholland hires Tony Harnischfeger to be the dam keeper.

Mulholland boasts that he built the dam under the auspices of the City of Los Angeles, without any state oversight. He declares that “as long as there is water, the prosperity of Los Angeles is unstoppable.” The citizens go wild with enthusiasm (“CITY OF ANGELS”).

Silent movie star **HARRY CAREY** promotes his tourist trading post at the base of San Francisquito Canyon (“HARRY CAREY’S LEGENDARY TRADING POST”). Tony Harnischfeger asks Harry Carey and **WILLIAM S. HART**

(“MOVIE COWBOYS”) for directions to the St. Francis Dam, where he is to start a new job as the dam keeper.

Mulholland informs Tony Harnischfeger the job includes a nearby cottage. With a job and a house, Tony finally persuades his sweetheart Leona Johnson to marry him, despite her objections about the location (“WAY UPSTREAM”).

As Tony Harnischfeger leads a group of tourists on the top of the dam, the **TOWNSFOLK** express apprehensions about living below it (“FRIENDLY TOWN OF SAUGUS”).

William S. Hart officiates at the opening of “Mulholland Highway.”

The Navajo **INDIAN CHIEF** informs Harry Carey they can no longer work at his trading post because their **SHAMAN** had a dream about the dam breaking (“SPIRIT WARNING”). Harry Carey disagrees and laments their departure. (“HARRY CAREY’S LEGENDARY TRADING POST #2”).

Leona informs Tony that she noticed something disturbing while taking a walk -- water is leaking from a crack in the dam.

END OF ACT TWO



Dedication of Mulholland Highway



Sign Points Toward Harry Carey's Trading Post

# SYNOPSIS

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Mulholland inspects the dam. With the reservoir now at its highest level ever and wind-swept water cresting over its spillway, he reassures Tony and Leona there is nothing to worry about; it is normal for concrete dams to leak. He explains that if the seeping water is clear and not brown, there is no problem. Brown water means the earthen foundation under the dam is giving way. Tony points out that the color is indeed brown, but Mulholland insists it is only dirt from a nearby construction road ("CONCRETE DAMS").

The Newsboy announces that Mariam and Winifred Watterson have been convicted on thirty-six counts of embezzlement from their own bank and will serve ten years in San Quentin prison. The Watterson Sisters are dragged away in jumpsuits, alleging that everything they did was for the farmers, their neighbors. Owens Valley Farmers realize they have lost the battle with Los Angeles and blame it all on William Mulholland ("OWENS VALLEY'S BUST").

Late at night, Tony and Leona hear a horrifying rumbling sound coming from the dam. As they inspect the dam with a flashlight, the rumbling gets louder. Lights go dark and we hear the sounds of breaking concrete, rushing water, and screams...

In a ceremony across town, Lippincott presents Mulholland, now in his 70s, with the Society of Engineers' "Scroll of Honor." Mulholland's acceptance speech is interrupted by a phone call. He drops the receiver in horror ("DON'T LET ANYONE BE DEAD").

The Newsboy reports that hundreds are dead or missing in the aftermath of the dam break.

The Townsfolk look for their loved ones. Tony searches for Leona.

## ACT THREE "Hubris" (1928)

Mulholland enters as a fog fills the area. The DEAD BODIES of victims stand up and blame Mulholland for the tragedy ("TESTIMONY OF THE DEAD").

William S. Hart conducts a simple funeral for an unidentified young victim. The NATIVE AMERICANS and TOWNSFOLK pray for the dead ("HALLOWED GROUND"). Townsfolk drape sheets over bodies of their fallen neighbors.

Tony overhears Harry Carey and William S. Hart converse about Leona's body being found under rubble and taken to a makeshift morgue. Devastated, he wanders off and blames himself for Leona's demise. Leona enters, unseen, searching for Tony ("ALL DOWNSTREAM"). Tony runs to her, and they embrace. Tony suggests running away together to start anew. But Leona says she can never leave the dam. She will be there for eternity. Tony expresses his love for her and vows to never leave her. The ghosts kiss and disappear into the fog.

The Newsboy announces the death toll: 200 dead. 300 missing. The Townsfolk assess what happened to the dam. Each has a different hypothesis to offer, but they all agree that whatever the cause, it was the fault of William Mulholland ("VARIOUS THEORIES").

The Newsboy announces a Coroner's Inquest, which will seek the cause of the dam failure.

At the inquest, Mulholland accepts responsibility ("FASTEN IT ON ME"). The jury finds the responsibility for the collapse to be placed on the Bureau of Water Works and Supply, and its Chief Engineer, William Mulholland. The jury further recommends no criminal prosecution, however, as there was no evidence of criminal behavior or intent. Mulholland declares that he "envies the dead."

Alone in the courthouse, Mulholland laments his career ("THE CHIEF OF NOTHING").

An aging Fred Eaton enters. He and Mulholland embrace, two old friends reunited.

The Newsboy, who is now in his mid-forties and wearing glasses, explains directly to the audience that as a result of the St. Francis disaster, California created the Division of Dam Safety, the first agency in the country to provide independent review and oversight of every new dam constructed in the state, which becomes the standard for the entire country.

Despite the catastrophic failure of the dam, Mulholland and Eaton recognize the important roles they played in the rapid rise of Los Angeles.

Together they sing the final verse:

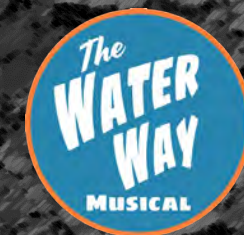
"We brought the water; we made a city."

**BLACKOUT**

The lights rise to find William S. Hart and Harry Carey sitting on blocks of broken concrete. They play their guitars and sing about how progress and failure go hand-in-hand ("TUMBLIN' BLOCKS").

Porciúncula wraps up the story of the little river that started a city. The whole ensemble assembles on stage for the curtain call, as they perform the finale ("MULHOLLAND DRIVE #3").

**END OF PLAY**



1927 Los Angeles Times Reports  
Watterson Siblings' Embezzlement



In *The WaterWay*, these two  
embezzling brothers have  
become the *Watterson Sisters*.



# MEET THE CREATORS



## BRADDON MENDELSON BOOK AND LYRICS



After graduating from California State University, Northridge with a degree in TV and Film, Braddon began his career in television, operating the teleprompter on the *Academy Award* and *Emmy Award* telecasts. He has gone on to produce several independent feature films, including the cult classic *Boogie Boy*. On the Internet, Braddon has created a diverse and multi-genre body of work, including *CineVerses*, an award-winning video series he produces with his "WaterWay" collaborator, composer/poet Jerry Danielsen, and *Read Me a Story*, where children's books come to life with animation, effects, and music.

He was a writer for Sony Television International's sitcom *Rita's Welt* ("Rita's World") and has produced award-winning music videos for a variety of top recording artists.

His work in live theater includes directing the Radio Television News Association's annual *Golden Mike Awards*, *The Riot Act* at the Hollywood Playhouse, and *Melodic Cuisine* — a multimedia show replete with music, dancing, and effects. *The WaterWay* marks his first foray into musical theater, a genre that he has loved since childhood.



## JERRY DANIELSEN MUSIC



Jerry Danielsen is a composer, producer, sound designer, recording engineer, writer, filmmaker, poet and podcast entrepreneur. He is also the owner-operator of Busy Signal Studios, where he coordinates and produces his original music for films, TV and theater.

A graduate of California Institute of the Arts and College of the Canyons, Jerry has worked extensively as a studio musician-arranger as well as recording and performing his music with Grammy winners and gold record artists.

In addition, he has extensive experience composing music for contemporary classical works, jazz, commercial, experimental, as well as music for electronic instruments and traditional ensembles.

Having been involved with musicals for years, Jerry has been musical director and/or composed music and sound design for "Steam Bath Blues," "Karma - The Awakening," "The Majestic Kid," "Follow the Sun," "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest," and more.

Jerry is excited to be working on the songs for *The WaterWay*.

# DIVERSITY



It is the desire of the producers to be as inclusive as possible when casting each respective role.

Although, historically, many of the personalities depicted in the *The WateryWay* were White men, this does not mean those individuals cannot be portrayed onstage or on screen by a variety of diverse performers.

For each role, including William Mulholland, the author and composer encourage casting from the entire pallet of humanity.

We leave the ultimate decision on casting up to the director.

# PRESS & PUBLICITY



## Social Media

### The Santa Clarita Signal

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020

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**"The Water Way" musical follows impact of 1928 collapse on the SCV**  
By Emily Alvarenga  
Signal Staff Writer

As local residents commemorate the 100th anniversary of the St. Francis Dam disaster, two Santa Clarita residents are finding their own way to remember the historical moment with their musical, "The Water Way."

Braddon Mendelson describes the faulty materials used in construction as he displays a piece of the St. Francis Dam in Canyon Country on Wednesday. Mendelson is the writer and co-producer of "The Water Way," a family-friendly musical adaptation of the story of the devastating collapse of the dam in 1928.

**MUSICAL**  
Continued from A1

dam and its impact on the Santa Clarita Valley and surrounding areas.

**Fascinated**  
When Mendelson moved to the SCV in 1999 and learned about the disaster, he said he was immediately fascinated and wanted to create a documentary. "It never materialized, but I got all this stuff together," he said, adding that he had already gathered quite a bit of research. "It just hit me ... I said, 'You know what? I'm more interested in seeing this than putting together a documentary.'"

So, years later, when Mendelson wanted to get into musical theater, he thought there would be a better way to make the story of the dam come to life. Similarly, Danielson remembers learning about the dam when he moved to the SCV in junior high.

"People were talking about it like it was folklore of this area, but they'd say back in the day this dam burst," he said. "We drove up there when we got drivers' licenses and checked it out."

Now, the pair are working together to produce the musical, which Mendelson said will be more than just the story of the disaster. "I really think this is a really good story for a musical,

but I don't just want to make it about the dam. I want to make it about the rise of Los Angeles because of the delivery of water from the north."

**Fighting drought**  
The story begins in 1877 and follows William Mulholland as he arrives in L.A. when it was a city of only 9,000 residents.

Working as a ditch tender hired by Frederick Eaton, Mulholland begins clearing ditches from the Zanja Madre, the original aqueduct that brought water to L.A. from the L.A. River and the title of one of 20 or so songs in the musical.

"We follow that trajectory, but along the way, there's a drought," Mendelson said. "The water would come and go. It was dry and the population was growing."

The story progresses as Mulholland's plan to fight the drought by building a 23-mile aqueduct to bring water from the Owens Valley, along with the violence that follows as residents up north get angrier when their water source dries up.

"One of the reasons we had the St. Francis Dam in Mulholland knew that if we had a supply of water to last to at least a year, it would fend off drought and any further damage from those evil guys," Mendelson added.

When the dam bursts on March 12, 1928, hundreds are killed. "It was the worst, manmade, civil engineering disaster in America in the 20th century."

The remainder of the musical follows what happens to those who were killed along with those who survived, including Saugus residents and movie cowboys Harry Carey and William S. Hart, as well as the various theories surrounding why the dam burst.

"There were so many theories about what happened, even to this day," Mendelson said. "It's really interesting because it's a way of giving exposition about what these theories are."

The pair hopes to premiere the musical locally over the next year.

For more information, visit thewaterwaymusical.com.

**Family-friendly adaptation**  
While not all events portrayed in the musical are 100% historically accurate, with the help of a board of advisors and thorough research, much remains true, according to Mendelson, who hopes this family-friendly adaptation of history can even be used for educational purposes.

"It's a loving, beautiful thing, and they can take part in it," he said, referring to students. "I think that everybody in this country is interested in this story, especially Californians."

The musical is now in pre-production, as both the script and lyrics are done, while Danielson continues to work on the music.

"I'm in music writing mode," he said. "We're going to use instruments that were used in those times to try to give it the spirit of the time period, so mandolins and guitars and some percussion. But then, it goes through time ... then there can be like, even jazz elements, maybe, and some drums."

The pair hopes to premiere the musical locally over the next year.

For more information, visit thewaterwaymusical.com.

### Current Poster

LOS ANGELES HAPPENS. JUST ADD WATER.

**The WATERWAY**  
A NEW MUSICAL

BOOK AND LYRICS BY Braddon Mendelson  
MUSIC BY Jerry Danielson  
PRODUCED BY Jerry Danielson and Braddon Mendelson  
MEDIA RELATIONS Terry Collier

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**The WATERWAY**  
A NEW MUSICAL

**THE WATERWAY**  
a new musical

Most of the Los Angeles River flows through underground aquifers.

TheWaterWayMusical.com

**THE WATERWAY**  
a new musical

L.A. Times publisher Harrison Grey Otis persuades voters to approve the aqueduct through forceful editorials.

Otis belongs to a syndicate with land investments destined to increase in value once the aqueduct is built.

TheWaterWayMusical.com

# EPHEMERA



## Postcards, Photos, and Maps From Back in the Day

First L.A. Reservoir, Located in Downtown Plaza, Today's "Olvera Street" (1860)



1908 Map of Los Angeles Aqueduct



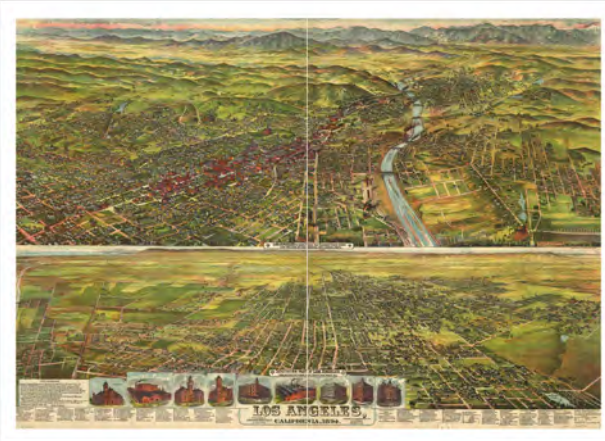
Harry Carey's Trading Post (1920s)



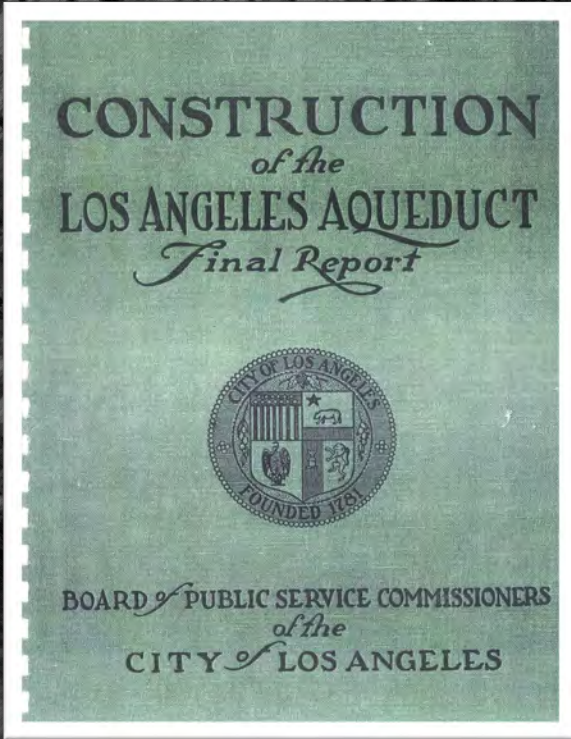
Pacific Electric Railway, aka "The Red Cars"



1894 Map of Los Angeles



# ADDITIONAL IMAGES



"Deadman Syphon" section of the L.A. Aqueduct



St. Francis Reservoir at near capacity.



The "Movie Cowboys"



## Social Media



**THE WATERWAY**  
a new musical

Most of the Los Angeles River flows through underground aquifers.

[TheWaterWayMusical.com](http://TheWaterWayMusical.com)



**THE WATERWAY**  
a new musical

L.A. Times publisher Harrison Grey Otis persuades voters to approve the aqueduct through forceful editorials.

Otis belongs to a syndicate with land investments destined to increase in value once the aqueduct is built.

[TheWaterWayMusical.com](http://TheWaterWayMusical.com)



**THE WATERWAY**  
a new musical

Los Angeles Trolley companies routed railroad tracks to undeveloped areas, knowing the readily available transportation would increase the values of property they owned as new communities sprang up.

[TheWaterWayMusical.com](http://TheWaterWayMusical.com)

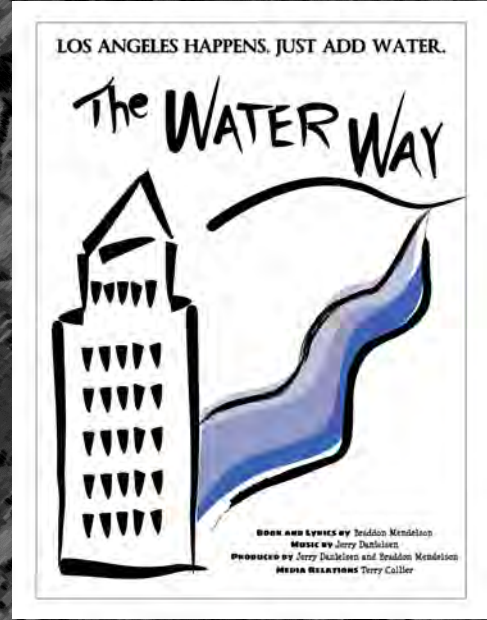


**THE WATERWAY**  
a new musical

The Los Angeles River was channelized in concrete after a disastrous storm in 1938 breached its banks, flooding much of the city.

[TheWaterWayMusical.com](http://TheWaterWayMusical.com)

## Alternate Posters



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LOS ANGELES HAPPENS. JUST ADD WATER.

# The WATER WAY



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