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WATER SUPPLY FOR AGORA PARK

General

It is becoming increasingly clear that we will not be able to obtain enough water from wells in the Agora area to serve the Agora Park. No one well has a flow anywhere nearly sufficient to meet our needs. Even if several wells were tapped it is doubtful if we could obtain enough. The cost of installation and maintenance of the several pumps that would be required would be high.

Conference with Water Company. We therefore approached the Water Company to see if they were in a position to supply us. General Booth, the head of the Company, said they could supply all we needed. They already supply most of the parks in Athens, only the National Garden (former Royal Garden) having its own separate source, and even it uses Company water for hose sprinkling.

A Company engineer visited the Agora at our request on August 19, 1954. He said that water could best be brought in from Theseion Square where a six-inch main passes. This main draws its water from a reservoir whose altitude is about 120 meters above sea level. A three-inch pipe tapping this main could fill the Agora reservoir (altitude about 90 meters) in a few hours. The Agora distribution system could also be connected directly with the city mains, by-passing the reservoir, and this direct connection could be used when relatively small quantities of water were required. If large quantities were needed, it would be better to draw on the reservoir especially during the peak hours of the day.

Reliability of supply. The drought of the post-war years is over. Emergency sources of water developed during the drought continue to function. Plans are going ahead to bring the water of Lake Hylike into the Marathon reservoir. The future of Athens' water supply seems therefore reasonably bright, and the Company should not have to go back to rationing water.

Amount of water needed. The Agora reservoir is designed to hold about 275 cubic meters (72,864 U.S. gallons). Mr. Griswold has reckoned that it would have to be filled on an average about twice a week. This would mean about 2400 cubic meters a month. The Zappeion garden, which is roughly comparable in size to the Agora, has recently used the following quantities (meter readings supplied by the Water Company):

May 1954	3450	cu. m.
June "	4500	cu. m.
July "	6500	cu. m.

Cost. Under the terms of its basic contract the Water Company is obliged to supply water free of charge to public parks. The rate for other Government services is 1500 drachmai (5 cents) a cubic meter.

Recommendation. If the Agora can be classed as a public park and water can be obtained from the Company free of charge, this is obviously the ideal arrangement. If we have to pay the Government rate, the cost of water might be about $ 715 per year (550 cu. m. a week for 26 weeks at 5 cents per cu. m.). Even this, however, would probably not be much more than the installation, maintenance and eventual replacement of three or four pumps.

As insurance against recurrence of drought, some wells might be left open at various points. These could be worked by hand for absolutely essential watering in very dry periods.

Eugene Vanderpool

Athens,
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