

December 20th, 1927.

C. M. Cree, Esq.,
Carrizozo,
New Mexico.

Dear Mr. Cree:

You will recall my filing a petition in the General Land Office for a quit claim deed on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 15, T. 1 N., R. 9 W., S. B. M., California, containing 160 acres, under the act of September 22, 1922.

Yesterday, I received by registered mail an official letter from the Assistant Commissioner of the General Land Office, rejecting our application for quit claim deed, and putting it upon the ground that the land involved has been appropriated to public use, other than to general forestry purposes. I am sending to you herewith a copy of this official letter, which speaks for itself. You will see that they claim that a portion of this area is being used for a public camping ground and that the Los Angeles County Flood Control District is building a dam in Big Dalton Canyon which is located on this quarter section, and that the reservoir will undoubtedly flood a considerable portion of this area when completed.

You will also note from the letter that we are allowed thirty days from the receipt of this letter, within which to appeal to the Secretary of the Interior. It strikes me that this public use is perhaps something that has been inaugurated there since the passage of the act under which we claim, and also since the time when you were entitled to this quit claim deed. An appeal might be successfully prosecuted on this theory, if the land in question is of sufficient value to warrant the outlay of an appeal. Some one, who understands the matter, ought to go and inspect this land and determine whether or not further expense should be incurred. I am wondering whether you would like to do this, yourself, or whether you would like to have me send some one there to make the inspection. It would cost about \$150.00 to send a competent man out there to do this. I have a man in mind here, who was once an official in the local Land Office, who is willing to go if that amount of money is provided. However, if you wish to go, yourself, it is perfectly all right with me. You should take the copy of the letter enclosed with you, and go to the map or the United States Land Office there, and find the location of the land, and then go and look it over, and take such further steps as you deem wise, in determining the value of the land and just what use is being made of it for the purposes mentioned in this letter. This

--2-- C. M. Cree

12/20/27

should be done at once, if we are going ahead with the matter, because it will take a little time to get up the appeal and the specifications of error, as well as a brief in support of the appeal.

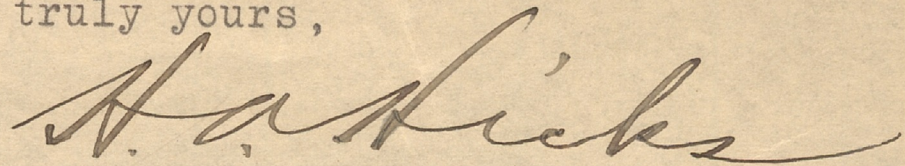
I would like also to call your attention to the fact that I have devoted a good deal of time and labor to this matter so far, and would appreciate it if you would send me \$100.00, on account, if you can spare it at this time.

Kindly let me have your immediate attention to this matter, and oblige,

Very truly yours,

HAH/ERH

Encl.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. A. Hicks". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "HAH/ERH".