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**The Bancroft Library  
University of California, Berkeley**

**E.W. Burr, Superintendent, Alameda Sugar Co. March 18, 1907**

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**Letter**

March 18, 1907.

Mr. E. W. Burr, Superintendent  
Alameda Sugar Company  
Alvarado, California.

My dear Mr. Burr:

I have before me a tabulation of the depth of certain artesian wells at the sugar-mill, numbered from 1 to 9, before and after the earthquake of April 18, 1906. The figures are very interesting, and I should like to incorporate them in the report of the Earthquake Commission, as indicative of the effect of the earthquake on the ground water; but before doing so I should like to apply the correction necessary for the fluctuation of the level of the wells due to the rise and fall of the tide in the adjoining Bay of San Francisco. You doubtless know the hour at which the measurements for the level of the water in these wells was taken on April 9, 14, 21 and 28, and May 5; and if you can get a series of hourly observations on the wells, say for a period of ten days or two weeks, so as to plot the curve of fluctuation of the water in the wells under normal conditions, and compare this curve with the curve of the rise and fall of the tide, we can, by referring back to the tabulation of the tide for the days mentioned, apply the necessary correction and so get the true effect of the earthquake upon the level of the underground water in your vicinity, in so far as your measurements will enable us to do so.

May I ask you whether it would be too much for you to do

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for the Earthquake Commission to get a record of hourly observations such as I suggest, taken with some considerable care, so that we can get this data for the purpose I mention.

Yours sincerely  
Chairman, State Earthquake Investigation Commission.