

Decision No. 12654.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of )  
R. A. BAKER )  
for an order increasing and changing )  
rates of the Chihuahuita Water System )  
in the County of Los Angeles. )

Application No. 9284

ORIGINAL

Donald R. Peck, for applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In the above entitled proceeding R. A. Baker makes application for authority to increase and modify the present rate schedule of the Chihuahuita Water System, located at Tittleyville, adjacent to Lamanda Park, Los Angeles County, and the application alleges in effect that the revenues derived from the sale of water are not sufficient to pay the expense of maintaining and operating the system. The Commission is therefore asked to authorize the establishment of the rate schedule set forth in the application.

A public hearing in this matter was held at Los Angeles before Examiner Williams, all interested parties having been duly notified and given an opportunity to appear and be heard.

At the hearing applicant submitted a modification of the rate schedule set out in the application, and testified that the revision was made as the result of a further investigation of the cost of operation.

The Chihuahuita Water System consists of a well, pumping equipment, storage tanks, and the distribution system, and supplies water for domestic use to some fifty Mexican families, in addition to a rock crusher, a four-acre truck garden and a grading camp. The present rates in effect are a flat rate of \$1.00 per month for domestic use and \$12.00 per month for the grading camp. Previous to one month ago the operator of the truck garden received his water supply in exchange for his services in attending to the pumping plant, but during the past month a meter has been installed with the understanding that he will pay for the water consumed at the metered rate to be fixed by the Commission in this proceeding. The rock crusher is owned by the applicant, and no record has been kept of the water used, but the owner estimates a consumption of approximately one hundred thousand cubic feet per month. All consumers are served at flat rates.

This property was recently acquired from Charles Maeller in accordance with the terms of the Commission's order in Decision No. 12243, dated June 22, 1923, in Application No. 9115. Mr. Baker testified that his principal reason for purchasing the system was in order to obtain an adequate water supply for his rock crusher. During the past month he has installed new pumping equipment, which has greatly increased the output of the well, and has also constructed an additional storage tank.

J. G. Hunter, one of the Commission's hydraulic engineers, presented a report showing an estimated reasonable cost of applicant's used and useful property amounting to \$7,045, and a replacement annuity, computed by the six per cent. sinking fund method, of \$182. There was also shown an estimated annual reasonable maintenance and operation charge of \$2,596. The records of revenue received from the sales of water are so incomplete as to be practically valueless.

Due to the fact that a number of the Mexican families carry their water supply from one outside faucet, it has been difficult to enforce collections, as under the present arrangement the service to parties who fail to pay their bills can not be discontinued without affecting others who may have paid all charges. Applicant testified that he proposes to meter practically all of the services and hold the consumer responsible for all water passing through his meter.

The rate schedule requested is reasonable under the conditions prevailing and will be authorized in the following order.

### O R D E R

R. A. Baker, owner and operator of the Chihuahuita Water System, having applied to this Commission for an order authorizing an increase and modification of rates for water service, a public hearing having been held thereon, the matter having been submitted, and the Commission being now fully informed in the matter,

It Is Hereby Found as a Fact that the rates now charged by R. A. Baker for water supplied to consumers of the Chihuahuita Water System, are unjust and unreasonable in so far as they differ from the rates herein established, and that the rates herein established are just and reasonable rates for such service.

Basing the order upon the foregoing finding of fact and upon the statements of fact contained in the opinion which precedes this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that R. A. Baker be and he is hereby authorized and directed to file with this Commission within twenty (20) days of the date of this order, the following schedule of rates, said rates to be charged for all water delivered to consum-

