

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application of)
MATTIE EVANS ALDERMAN) Application No. 9416.
for permission to establish meter)
rates, rules and regulations.)

Mattie Evans Alderman, in propria persona.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding Mattie Evans Alderman, who operates a small public utility which supplies and distributes water for domestic use to the residents of the unincorporated town of Thermal, Riverside County, asks for an adjustment of the present flat rate schedule and the establishment of a metered rate, together with rules and regulations to govern relations with consumers.

The application alleges in effect that the present rate schedule was established prior to 1912, and that the development of the community now requires an adjustment of the present flat rates, including a rate to apply for metered service.

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

This water system was purchased by Mrs. Alderman about

1912 in connection with the acquisition of lands and subdivision property. An artesian well 945 feet in depth from which the water supply is obtained and also a portion of the distribution system, were installed about 1908, the only changes since that time having been an extension of the distribution mains. Pressure on the system is maintained by a stand-pipe 16 feet high, located at the end of the distribution mains and from which excess water is allowed to waste. Approximately 35 consumers are now supplied at a flat rate of \$1.50 per month for all classes of service except the hotel, which is charged \$4.00 per month.

F. H. Van Hoesen, one of the Commission's hydraulic engineers, presented a report at the hearing in which the original cost of the water system was estimated at \$4,236, with a replacement annuity computed on the 6 per cent. sinking fund method of \$88. Reasonable maintenance and operation expense for the future was estimated at \$996, which includes an allowance for expense in connection with delivering water into tank cars for shipment into various points in the Imperial Valley. Revenues from the sale of water for the year 1923 were estimated at \$2,589, which amount includes \$2,010 as revenue received from the sale of water delivered to tank cars and shipped to other localities. No objection was made to the figures contained in this report, and no other appraisals or estimates were submitted.

The testimony of several consumers indicated that they did not oppose an adjustment of rates or the establishment of a schedule to cover metered service. Improvement in service, particularly increased pressure, was however desired.

Applicant contends that the water used in filling tank cars and shipped to other points is waste water from the artesian

well, and that such sales should not be considered as a part of the public utility service. The evidence indicates however that such service is rendered at the railroad siding at Thermal, within the service area of the utility, through the utility's pipe system and by the utility's employees. It is admitted by applicant that this particular service should be rendered only when water would otherwise go to waste and should be diminished or discontinued when the demands of the utility's regular consumers require additional water. Careful consideration of all pertinent factors leads to the conclusion that the service to tank cars, although it is admittedly of a temporary nature and from surplus water, should be regarded as a part of the regular utility business. However, the revenue derived therefrom is very irregular, and the amounts received from sales during the year 1923 are not in any way indicative of the amounts which will be received in the future. The evidence indicates that an adjustment of the present flat rates should be made, and as the Commission has often expressed its approval of metered service as the most equitable method of selling water, a schedule of reasonable rates covering such service will be established.

The complaint of the consumers indicating inadequate service due to lack of pressure can be eliminated by the installation of a pumping unit and a storage tank elevated sufficiently to insure adequate pressure and service at all times. The schedule of rates set out in the accompanying order will justify such an expenditure, and the collection of these rates will be expressly conditioned upon the installation by the applicant of such facilities as are required to render adequate service.

O R D E R

Mattie Evans Alderman having made application as entitled

above, a public hearing having been held thereon, the matter having been submitted and the Commission being now fully informed therein,

It Is Hereby Found as a Fact that the rates now charged by Mattie Evans Alderman for water delivered to consumers in and in the vicinity of Thermal, Riverside County, 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 preceding opinion,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Mattie Evans Alderman be and she is hereby authorized to file with this Commission within twenty (20) days from the date of this order the following schedule of rates to be charged for water delivered to consumers subsequent to January 31, 1924:

MONTHLY METER RATES

From	0	to	500	cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet	\$0.25
From	500	to	2000	" " " 100 " "	.20
Over			2000	" " " 100 " "	.10

MONTHLY MINIMUM CHARGES

5/8	inch	meter			\$1.25
3/4	"	"			1.50
1	"	"			1.75
1 1/2	"	"			2.25
2	"	"			4.00
3	"	"			8.00
4	"	"			12.00

Note: Each of the foregoing monthly minimum charges will entitle the consumer to the quantity of water which that monthly minimum charge will purchase at the foregoing "monthly meter rates".

FOR WATER DELIVERED TO TANK CARS
FOR SHIPMENT TO OTHER POINTS

Per 1000 gallons	\$0.25
Minimum charge, per tank car	10.00

MONTHLY FLAT RATES

1.	Residences, boarding houses, apartments, lodging houses, tenements, and flats of five rooms or less, including toilet and bath	\$1.50
	For each additional room . . . . .	.10
	For each additional bath tub . . . . .	.25
	For each additional toilet . . . . .	.25
	Additional for each private garage and one automobile . . . . .	.25
	For each additional automobile . . . . .	.25
	Additional for private barn, with not more than two horses or cows. . . . .	.50
	For each additional horse or cow . . . . .	.20
2.	Sprinkling or irrigation of lawns, shrubbery, trees, gardens, etc., per square yard of surface actually irrigated . . . .	.003
3.	Blacksmith shops, machine shops, lumber yards, printing offices, bakeries, undertaking parlors, grocery stores, theatres, warehouses, butcher shops and large stores	2.00
4.	Bottling works, creameries, slaughter houses and laundries	5.00
5.	Drug stores, dental offices and photograph galleries.	3.50
6.	Banks, professional offices, billiard parlors, fraternal halls, clubrooms, churches, plumbing shops, stores and shops not otherwise listed	1.50
7.	Office buildings, for each room. . . . .	.50
8.	Restaurants, chop houses and cafes, per unit seating capacity. . . . .	.15
9.	Livery stables and feed yards, per average number of stock fed, each. . . . .	.25
10.	Barns in connection with stores, shops, etc., not more than two horses . . . . .	.50
	For each additional horse. . . . .	.20
11.	Public garage, six automobiles or less	3.00
	For each additional automobile . . . . .	.50
12.	Soda fountains and ice cream stands, either alone or in connection with other business	2.50
13.	Barber shops, per chair.	1.00
	Additional for each bath tub	1.00
	Additional for each toilet . . . . .	.50

14. Hotel:

Dining rooms.	\$2.00
Bed rooms with running water. . . . .	.25
Each bath tub . . . . .	.50
Each toilet . . . . .	.30

15. Building work:

For mortar and to dampen brick, per	
1000 brick. . . . .	.35
For cement work, each barrel. . . . .	.15

All uses not specified above to be charged at meter rates.

Meters may be installed upon any service at the option of either the consumer or the utility. If installed at the option of the utility the entire costs of the meter and installation must be borne by the utility. If installed at the request of the consumer the cost of meter and installation thereof shall be advanced by the consumer to the utility, and the money so advanced shall be refunded to the depositor as credits on monthly bills for water furnished at the rate of 50 per cent. of the total amount of such monthly bills.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that the collection of the rates herein established after April 30, 1924, is expressly conditioned upon the furnishing to consumers at all times by Mattie Evans Alderman of an adequate supply of water at sufficient pressure to insure satisfactory service.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Mattie Evans Alderman be and she is hereby directed to file with this Commission within thirty (30) days from the date of this order, rules and regulations to govern relations with consumers, such rules and regulations to become effective upon their acceptance by the Commission.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 31 day of December, 1923.

Ed Leary

Dwight Martin
Egerton Shore

Commissioners.