

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

C. E. LEATHERMAN, PETER DELANEY,)
LOUISA Y. BARTLETT, KATE CRUMP,)
MRS. C. A. WENZEL, C. P. NYBERG,)
S. E. LOOP and DR. F. H. WALKER,)
Complainants,)

Case No. 2151.

vs.)

CONSOLIDATED WATER & DEVELOPMENT)
COMPANY,)
Defendant.)

James E. Barker, for complainants.

F. Walton Brown, for defendant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding complaint is made that the water service rendered by the Consolidated Water and Development Company, a corporation, in a tract known as the North Moneta Gardens, adjoining Hawthorne, Los Angeles County, is inadequate and insufficient, and that the company is accepting additional consumers outside its service area, which will further reduce the available supply to the present consumers.

The company in its answer admits that at times the service has been inadequate, but alleges that the service has been improved and is now satisfactory; that no consumers outside the service area are being given service; and that the company is planning to acquire and install additional facilities for producing water for use in this tract.

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

The defendant owns and operates several small water systems in Los Angeles County. The system serving North Moneta Gardens is separate and isolated from the other properties of this utility. North Moneta Gardens Tract, comprising an area of 480 acres, was originally subdivided into lots and acre tracts. The present water supply is obtained from a twelve-inch cased well located on the tract and pumped into a 50,000 gallon storage tank located upon a twenty-foot tower from which it is distributed by gravity to the consumers. The distribution system consists of mains varying from 2 inches to 12 inches in diameter. There are at present about 250 active consumers on the system and 45 inactive service connections to premises which have not yet been occupied. Although the majority of consumers use water only for domestic purposes, during the summer months water is sold for agricultural purposes to 15 users, who irrigate a total of about 160 acres.

The testimony of the complainants shows that during each summer, particularly during the months of June and July, the water pressure has been very low and the quantity of water supplied the consumers insufficient for ordinary domestic and sanitary purposes; and that it has been necessary for some of the consumers to purchase bottled water for cooking and drinking purposes because of the offensive odor and unpleasant taste of the water.

Representatives of the company admitted that heretofore the company's properties had been poorly and improperly managed but showed that this was no longer the case since July, 1925, at which time the administration and operation of the company had been

completely changed and reorganized by placing the company's affairs in the hands of an engineering firm specializing in water works management. According to the company the low pressures complained of were due to the unregulated irrigation use during the day and to the worn-out and leaking condition of certain pipe lines. Domestic service conditions were improved by restricting irrigation service to the evening and night and the replacement of some 900 feet of leaky mains with new pipe.

The evidence shows however that the present water supply is inadequate for the requirements of the community and that in order to render the kind of service which the consumers are entitled to receive it will be necessary to obtain additional water and replace the remaining leaky portions of the distribution system. To this end the company has already acquired a well upon land adjacent to the tract served and intends to install the necessary pumping equipment to produce an additional water supply. Assurance was given the Commission that the replacing of worn-out mains would be continued as rapidly as possible until completed. In case the improvements installed do not provide adequate pressure it may be necessary for the company to install a booster plant or other pumping equipment capable of increasing the pressure on the distribution system.

The complaint against the quality of water arises principally from the presence of sulphur which at times results in a water with a disagreeable taste and odor, especially where circulation is poor. Analyses made of the water by the State Board of Health indicate that the water is not injurious and is safe for human consumption. The elimination of dead-ends on the distribution system, in conjunction with frequent flushings of the mains, will greatly improve the quality of the water. The installation of a simple device at the wells for the aeration of the water is

also recommended to improve the conditions complained of.

One other matter has been the source of considerable inconvenience to many of the consumers on this system, and that is the fact that there is at present no provision on or near the area served whereby the water bills may be paid. The present practice of the company is to mail the monthly water bills to the consumers from its Los Angeles office. These bills must be paid by mail or by calling at the company's office in Los Angeles. Arrangements should be made at once to have some store or resident located on or near the tract authorized to receive payment of water bills for the company.

The company was directed at the hearing to submit a statement setting forth its program of improvements on the tract. This statement was filed and showed that the company proposes to install a pumping plant on a new well located near Williams and Rosenkranz Avenues, and have same in operation and connected to its distribution mains by May 1, 1926.

Although the testimony shows that service conditions at present are adequate yet the demand for water is not as great during the winter as it will be in the spring and summer months. For this reason the additional well should be equipped for service not later than the fifteenth of March, 1926.

The Commission recognizes the fact that it is extremely difficult for small utilities operating under such conditions as exist on this system to render adequate service promptly for both domestic use and agricultural irrigation purposes. This system is one of several in the county struggling through the transition period between irrigation and domestic service. It is apparent that this company can not properly serve its domestic consumers without so regulating the hours for irrigation as to prevent interference with domestic use. The following order will provide for the amending

of the company's rules and regulations restricting irrigation use to night hours and for the installation of additional water supply and pumping facilities.

O R D E R

Formal complaint having been filed against the Consolidated Water and Development Company as entitled above, 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 ORDERED:

1. That the Consolidated Water and Development Company, a corporation, file with this Commission within thirty (30) days from the date of this order, an amendment to its rules and regulations providing for the restriction of the use of water for agricultural irrigation purposes served by its North Moneta Gardens system, to such hours during the day and night as will not unreasonably interfere with the domestic use.
2. That Consolidated Water and Development Company shall within thirty (30) days from the date of this order, file with this Commission, subject to its approval, detailed plans for the development and installation of an additional and adequate water supply for its North Moneta Gardens system, together with the necessary pumping equipment and connecting pipes and mains, said installations to be completed and ready for service on or before the 15th day of March, 1926.

3. That Consolidated Water and Development Company file with this Commission monthly for a period of six months from the date of this order, a statement showing the length, size and location of all mains or pipe lines installed for the purpose of replacing existing mains or pipe lines on its North Moneta Gardens system.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty (20) days after the service thereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 3rd day
~~of January~~ ^{February} 1926.

H. B. Brundage

C. S. ...

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Leon Whitell
Commissioners.