

Decision No. 17314.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the matter of the application of SIERRA AND SAN FRANCISCO POWER COMPANY, a corporation, and PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, a corporation, for an order of the Railroad Commission of the State of California under Section 50 of the Public Utilities Act granting to applicants a certificate declaring that public convenience and necessity require and will require the construction of the proposed dam, penstock and the enlargement of and additions to plants and facilities described in this petition.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 13028.

C. P. Cutten, for Pacific Gas and Electric Company.
Donald M. Gregory, Chickering and Gregory,
for Sierra and San Francisco Power Company.

LOUTTIT, COMMISSIONER:

O P I N I O N

Sierra and San Francisco Power Company and Pacific Gas and Electric Company join in asking that the Railroad Commission certify that public convenience and necessity require the construction of certain proposed storage reservoirs and diversions, and the enlargement of an existing ditch and power house.

Sierra and San Francisco Power Company is the owner of a hydro-electric system which is now being operated under a fifteen year lease by Pacific Gas and Electric Company. A part of this system is a 7500 k.v.a. generating plant, known as the Spring Gap plant, the capacity of which will be doubled by the construction work now proposed. Water for use in the Spring Gap plant is now stored in the Strawberry Reservoirs located on the south fork of Stanislaus River. After flowing the natural course of the stream

for a few miles, the water is diverted by means of what is known as the Philadelphia Ditch to the forebay from which it is piped down a penstock to a water wheel in the Spring Gap plant and is discharged into the middle fork of the Stanislaus River. This water together with the flow of the Middle Fork passes through the Stanislaus Power House and is diverted a third time for use in the Melones Plant now under construction and for irrigation purposes.

It is now proposed to build a new rock filled dam on the South Fork of the Stanislaus River about four miles above the Strawberry Reservoirs creating what will be known as the Big Dam Reservoir. The diversion of Herring Creek, a tributary of the South Fork, so that its waters may be stored in the Strawberry Reservoirs will maintain the storage in these reservoirs at practically its present status and the capacity of the Big Dam Reservoir will be substantially a net addition to the system. With this additional storage the Philadelphia Ditch may be enlarged, an additional penstock constructed, and a duplicate unit added to the Spring Gap power house.

The cost of the project including the Big Dam Reservoir, Herring Creek diversion, enlargement of Philadelphia Ditch and duplication of present penstock and equipment at Spring Gap plant is estimated at \$1,950,000. This sum includes incidental costs for roads, camps, engineering superintendence, etc., as well as the direct expenses.

It is estimated that the increased output by reason of the new construction work will average approximately 55 million k.w.h. per year. Of this additional energy approximately 41 million k.w.h. will come from the addition to the Spring Gap plant and about 14 million k.w.h. will be generated by the passage of the additional stored water through the existing Stanislaus plant.

The demand for electric power from the system of the Sierra and San Francisco Power Company is continuing to grow with the growth of the communities served and there can be no question that public necessity requires the construction of additional generating plants. It appears that the construction now proposed will provide a reasonably economic source of power and that it is advantageously located with reference to existing plants and facilities of the Sierra and San Francisco Power Company.

I recommend the following form of order:

O R D E R

Sierra and San Francisco Power Company and Pacific Gas and Electric Company having applied to the Railroad Commission for an order, under Section 50 of the Public Utilities Act, certifying that public convenience and necessity require and will require the construction of the proposed dams, penstock and the enlargement of and additions to the plants and facilities described in the application, a public hearing having been held, and the Commission being fully advised;

The Railroad Commission hereby certifies and declares that public convenience and necessity require the construction and enlargement of certain dams, conduits and equipment in connection with the Spring Gap power house of Sierra and San Francisco Power Company, in accordance with the plans set forth in the application in this matter.

The foregoing opinion and order are hereby ordered filed as the opinion and order of the Railroad Commission of the State of California.

September
~~August~~, 1926. Dated at San Francisco, California, this 8th day of

H. B. Brundage
C. C. Beavers
Edmund J. Galt
Leon Spill
Walter B. Rountree
Commissioners.