

Decision No. 18155.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATER WORKS,
a corporation, for authority to dis-
continue the operation of an irriga-
tion pipe line.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 13125.

McAdoo, Neblett & O'Connor, by B. H. Neblett,
for applicant.

Carl B. Sturznacker, for consumers.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding Los Angeles County Water Works, a corporation, engaged in supplying water for domestic and irrigation purposes in the City of Los Angeles and in and in the vicinity of the unincorporated towns of Gardena and Moneta, Los Angeles County, asks for authority to discontinue the operation of an irrigation pipe line on Vermont Avenue between Southern and Rosecrans Avenues, Los Angeles County.

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.

According to the evidence presented in this case, the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County passed a resolution of intention to improve and pave the west side of Vermont Avenue along which applicant herein has a 12-inch riveted steel pipe line, used solely for the purpose of delivering water for

irrigation purposes to a few consumers. This pipe line is now about seventeen years old and is so badly depreciated that it will be impractical to lower the pipe or remove it to a new location. The estimated cost of replacing the pipe line appears to be not less than \$3,370. During 1925 eight consumers were supplied with water for irrigation purposes from this pipe line, and during 1926 but four consumers availed themselves of this service. The total revenues produced in 1925 amounted to \$250, and for the first nine months of 1926 the revenues were \$103. The company has contended that the service is non-compensatory and that its financial condition is such that it cannot raise the funds necessary to make the replacement should it be so ordered.

Originally the area supplied by this irrigation pipe line was sold to the public in small tracts which were to be devoted to the raising upon a small scale of chickens and home garden and orchard produce. Certain of the consumers protested against the discontinuance of this service upon the grounds that the water required for irrigation would be prohibitive under the schedule of rates charged for domestic service.

It appears to the Commission that it would be unreasonable under the existing circumstances to require applicant to replace the existing irrigation main for the small amount of water now being served by it. On the other hand, the consumers relying upon this irrigation service are rightfully entitled to a continuation thereof. From the evidence it appears that this company has at present an 8-inch pipe line running along Vermont Avenue parallel to the irrigation line and which conveys water to the domestic consumers. In view of the fact that the well and storage tank are jointly used for both domestic and irrigation supply, there will be no difficulty in the continuation of the irrigation service by means of the 8-inch domestic line.

By reason of the fact that the demands for irrigation water in the area now served by this utility are gradually diminishing in favor of an increase in the use of water for residential purposes, it is clear that in the future this company cannot reasonably be expected to continue the maintenance of separate facilities for the rendering of irrigation service for agricultural purposes. We believe that the service of water for irrigation purposes should be limited to the present users, and that the company should not undertake in the future to supply any additional consumers for this class of service.

In order that the domestic supply may not be seriously interfered with through the joint use of the present domestic main for irrigation purposes, the service of irrigating water should be restricted to such hours, either during the night or day time, or both, as will provide for the least possible interference with the domestic operation and distribution.

O R D E R

Application as entitled above having been made by Los Angeles County Water Works, a corporation, a public hearing having been held thereon, the matter having been submitted, and the Commission being now fully informed thereon,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Los Angeles County Water Works, a corporation, be and it is hereby authorized to discontinue on or after the 15th day of April, 1927, the operation of the 12-inch irrigation pipe line located on Vermont Avenue between Southern and Rosecrans Avenues in Los Angeles County, upon the following conditions:

1. That the irrigation service heretofore rendered from said 12-inch irrigation main be continued to those consumers who received irrigation service during the season of 1926.

2. That Los Angeles County Water Works, a corporation, notify each and every irrigation consumer affected by the order herein of its intention to discontinue the operation of said 12-inch irrigation main on or after the said 15th day of April, 1927, and that those consumers entitled to continued irrigation service under the terms of the order herein will in the future be supplied from the 8-inch domestic main through service connections to be installed by and at the expense of said Los Angeles County Water Works.

3. That within ten (10) days after the serving of notice as provided herein the said Los Angeles County Water Works shall file with this Commission a certified statement indicating the date such notice was given.

4. That within thirty (30) days from the date of this order Los Angeles County Water Works shall file with this Commission, subject to its approval, a schedule indicating the hours during which the service of water for irrigation will be rendered.

For all other purposes the effective date of this order shall be twenty (20) days from and after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 4th day of April, 1927.

Ernesto
H. P. Bridge
Chase

Thos. S. Kaut
Commissioners.