

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 18679

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

N.E. Nekleson, et al.,

Complainants,

vs.

The Ratterree Brothers, Inc.,

Defendants.

Case No. 2304.

S.T. Egevoll, Attorney for Complainants.

J.M. Ratterree, for Defendant.

LOTTIT, COMMISSIONER:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding, as entitled above, a complaint is brought against The Ratterree Brothers Company, a corporation, which owns and operates a public utility water system supplying water for domestic purposes in what is known as Golden West Park, a realty subdivision located in Visitation Valley, San Mateo County. The complaint alleges in effect that the water supply provided by defendant is entirely insufficient and inadequate as regards quantity and pressure for the present needs and requirements of its consumers and the Commission is requested to issue an order requiring defendant to improve the existing service conditions.

Public hearings were held in this proceeding at San Francisco on April 5th and May 3rd, 1927, of which all interested parties were duly notified and given the opportunity

to appear and be heard.

Ratterree Brothers are the realty promoters and sales agents of Golden West Park tract and installed the existing water pipe mains therein about 1914. The water supply is obtained by purchase from Spring Valley Water Company through a 2-inch metered connection on their 44-inch transmission pipe main at a point about 1,000 feet from the tract. The distribution system consists of four lines of 1½-inch screw pipe laid in the streets of the tract without cross main connections and is supplied by a 4-inch standard screw pipe line running to the Spring Valley pipe line. The tract is subdivided into approximately 1,000 lots and at present there are only 94 metered domestic services, of which about 86 are active consumers.

The evidence shows that the consumers who have complained herein of insufficient water service and pressures are largely residents in the tier of five blocks of the tract which are located south of Martin Street on the sidehill at the far end of the distribution pipe lines. In this high area of the tract there are at present 20 residences. The investigation made by the Hydraulic Division of the Commission disclosed that under the conditions of normal drafts on the distribution mains the volume and pressure of water delivered to these residences is inadequate for their needs; however, fairly good pressures and service are provided to the residences in the other portions of the tract at lower levels. During the periods of peak drafts on the system, it was found that the pressures in this high area are reduced to such an extent that at times the water will barely reach the first floors of certain of the residences.

Defendant admitted the poor service conditions complained of and, following the hearing held on April 5th, 1927,

installed certain improvements on the system, including a second 2-inch, metered tap on the Spring Valley main to increase the volume of flow and 720 feet of 1½-inch screw pipe in a cross street about the middle of the tract for the purpose of providing for circulation of water in the distribution mains. As a result the service conditions were to some extent improved in the higher levels of the tract, as shown by the records of the pressure tests made. However, it is evident that proper water pressures and service cannot be furnished the present consumers in this high area with the existing small diameter distributing mains and the water pressure available from the Spring Valley source of supply. Furthermore, service conditions will become worse as the number of consumers and consumption of water increases on the system as predicted for the future.

As disclosed by the evidence, the water supply facilities of this utility at present installed are inadequate to supply the growing needs of this community, particularly in the high area of the tract located south of Martin Street and, therefore, defendant should install at once the improvements necessary to provide adequate and proper service to all consumers. It is apparent that these improvements should include some type of booster pump installation to provide the pressures and volume of water required in the high area of the tract and the installation of a 4-inch distribution pipe main to extend across the tract and connect with the existing 4-inch main on Walbridge Street. It is further recommended that defendant obtain the services of a water supply engineer to study the situation and prepare plans and specifications for the necessary improvements.

The following form of order is submitted:

O R D E R

Formal complaint having been made as entitled above,

public hearings having been held, the matter having been submitted and the Commission being now fully informed thereon,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED for the reasons set out in the opinion which precedes this order that, within twenty (20) days from the date of this order, Ratterree Brothers, Inc., submit to this Commission for its approval plans and specifications for the improvement of their water supply system which will remedy the existing condition of inadequate and insufficient service to consumers and that, following such approval by the Commission, the work of installation of such improvements shall proceed immediately and be completed and in satisfactory operation on or before the thirty-first day of August, 1927.

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

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 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1927.

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Commissioners.