

Decision No. 19679**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of  
Riverside Water Works for the estab-  
lishment of rates for metered ser-  
vice.

Application No. 14444.

A. Putnam, for Applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding, A. Putnam, operating under the fictitious name of Riverside Water Works and engaged in the business of supplying water to Port Kenyon and vicinity, near the City of Ferndale in Humboldt County, asks for authority to establish meter rates to eliminate wasteful use of water.

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

The following rates now charged have been in effect on this system since 1911:

"Water for domestic purposes only.

RATES: \$1.25 per month for family use.  
.05 per month per head for stock."

The water supply of this system is obtained from two springs and delivered to approximately sixty consumers located at scattered intervals along several miles of county roads, the pipe lines extending also along both sides of Salt River below

the community of Port Kenyon. By reason of the sparsely settled area served, the system is still in a development stage and therefore the question of return upon the investment and the value thereof for rate-fixing purposes need not be determined herein. Applicant requests the establishment of a meter rate for the conservation of water during the summer months, during which time the springs are taxed to their limit of production. There was no objection on the part of the consumers to the installation of meters and it appears that the schedule of meter rates in effect in the adjacent City of Ferndale is reasonable for this system and therefore will be authorized in the following order.

Complaint was made by certain consumers that the water furnished by applicant at times contains considerable sediment and that the pressure is very poor during times of peak demand. The evidence shows that the pipe lines frequently become clogged with silt deposited by reason of poorly constructed intake facilities at the springs and aggravated by lack of blow-off valves. Applicant should at once repair and improve the diversion works by constructing barrier walls above the springs to divert and carry off surface waters, and should install a proper roof and screen on the catchment basin to prevent the entrance of animals and foreign matter with its attendant serious pollution hazard. In addition to the above necessary improvements, blow-off valves should be installed at strategic points on the pipe lines to flush them out and maintain full use thereof. The proper installation of the above improvements should eliminate the past unsatisfactory service conditions on this system.

O R D E R

Application as entitled above having been made to this

Commission, a public hearing having been held thereon, the matter having been submitted and the Commission being now fully advised in the premises,

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT that the rates now charged by A. Putnam, operating under the fictitious firm name and style of Riverside Water Works, for water supplied to his consumers 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 the service rendered, and basing its order upon the foregoing findings of fact and upon the statements of fact contained in the opinion which precedes this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that A. Putnam be and he is hereby authorized and directed to file with the Railroad Commission, within thirty (30) days from the date of this order, the following schedule of rates for all water delivered to his consumers on and after the first day of May, 1928:

FLAT RATES

\$1.25 per month for family use.  
 .05 per month per head for stock.

METER RATES

50¢ per 1,000 gallons for the first 1,000 per month.  
 35¢ per 1,000 gallons for the next 9,000 per month.  
 25¢ per 1,000 gallons for the next 10,000 per month.  
 17½¢ per 1,000 gallons for the next 20,000 per month.  
 10¢ per 1,000 gallons for all additional.

No meter rates to be less than \$1.00 per month.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that A. Putnam be and he is hereby directed to file with the Railroad Commission,

within thirty (30) days from the date of this order, rules and regulations governing the service of water to his consumers, said rules and regulations to become effective upon their approval by the Railroad Commission.

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 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1928.

Leon Whitall

Clarence

Thomas Howard

M. A. Cum  
Commissioners.