

Decision No. 20315

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application
of I.F. WISEMAN for authority to
increase water rates.

Application No. 14793.

Hilliard Comstock, for Applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

This is an application by I.F. Wiseman, owner of the Jenner Water System, a public utility furnishing water for domestic and irrigation purposes at Jenner, a summer resort located at the mouth of the Russian River in Sonoma County, alleging in effect that the revenues from the system since the year 1921 have been sufficient to meet only bare operating costs without any return upon the investment; wherefore, the Commission is requested to establish an increased schedule of rates.

A public hearing was held in the above proceeding before Examiner Satterwhite at Jenner, Sonoma County, on September 11, 1928.

The water supply for this system is obtained from Jenner Creek and stored in two large, wooden tanks from which distribution is made by gravity through approximately 3,200 feet of pipe varying from 1½ inches to ¾ of an inch in diameter. At the present time, applicant supplies an average of eleven annual consumers, one irrigation user and twenty-six summer water users. The system is not metered.

The schedule of rates now in effect was established by this Commission in Decision No. 8296, dated October 28, 1920, which is as follows:

FLAT RATES

Minimum annual charge, payable in advance, entitling the consumer to water for a period of four months-----	\$ 7.00
For each additional month-----	1.25
Flat rate for entire year, payable in advance-----	15.00
For residences of two or more floors, which are occupied by separate families or parties, an additional charge for each such floor in excess of one, for each month so occupied, per month-----	.50
For the irrigation of a lot or lots, not occupied by a house or other residence, for each square yard of surface actually irrigated, per month, (1/2 cent)-----	.005

METER RATES

Minimum annual charge, payable in advance, entitling consumer to a maximum of 500 cubic feet of water per month for a period of four months-----	\$ 6.00
All use during other months, 500 cubic feet or less, per month-----	1.00
Next 3,500 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet-----	.15
All use over 4,000 cubic feet-----	.10

NOTE: The above annual charges shall be due and payable on January 1st of each year.

In the event any consumer receives service for only a portion of any month, the rates for the full month will be charged.

The evidence shows that the reasonable estimated original cost of this system for rate-fixing purposes is \$2,045., that \$30.00 is a proper replacement annuity and that the sum of \$288. is a fair allowance for the annual maintenance and operation expenses. The revenues for the past three years have averaged \$354. per year, which indicates that applicant is entitled to a small readjustment of rates.

Service has been improved on this system by the in-

stallation of a better diversion works and by the replacement of the worn-out pipe lines with new mains. Testimony shows that occasionally in the past, during exceptionally dry years, the supply of water has been seriously threatened toward the end of the season. Should this condition arise in the future, applicant will be expected to provide additional storage capacity. The following schedule of rates is designed to produce a fair return upon the properties devoted to the public use.

O R D E R

I.F. Wiseman having made application to the Railroad Commission as stated above, a public hearing having been held thereon and the matter having been submitted,

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT that the rates now charged by I.F. Wiseman for water supplied to his consumers in the Town of Jenner are unjust and unreasonable insofar as they differ from the rates herein established and that the rates herein established are just and reasonable rates to be charged for the service rendered and basing its order on the foregoing findings of fact and on the further statements of fact contained in the opinion which precedes this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Railroad Commission of the State of California that I.F. Wiseman be and he is hereby directed to file with this Commission, within thirty (30) days of the date of this order, the following schedule of rates for all water delivered to consumers in Jenner, Sonoma County, subsequent to October 31, 1928:

FLAT RATES

Minimum annual charge, payable in advance, entitling the consumer to water for a period of four months-----	\$10.00
For each additional month-----	1.25
Flat rate for entire year, payable in advance-----	16.00
For residences of two or more floors, which are occupied by separate families or parties, an additional charge for each such floor in excess of one, for each month so occupied, per month-----	.50
For the irrigation of a lot or lots, not occupied by a house or other residences, for each square yard of surface actually irrigated, per month, (1/2 cent)-----	.005

METER RATES

Minimum annual charge, payable in advance, entitling consumer to a maximum of 500 cubic feet of water per month for a period of four months---	\$10.00
All use during other months, 500 cubic feet or less per month-----	1.25
Meter rate for entire year payable in advance, entitling consumer to maximum of 500 cubic feet per month for a period of twelve consecutive months-----	16.00
For All Use in Excess of 500 Cubic Feet per Month:	
500 to 4,000 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet-----	.15
Over 4,000 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet-----	.10

In event any consumer receives service for only a portion of any month, the rates for the full month will be charged.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that I.F. Wiseman be and he is hereby directed to file with this Commission, within thirty (30) days from the date of this order, rules and regulations to govern relations with his consumers, such rules and regulations to become effective upon their acceptance for filing by this 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 11th day of October, 1928.

C. Sweeney

Frank D. Douthett

 Commissioner.