

Decision No. 26385

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of John Rentz for authorization, as Proprietor of a public utility, to install water meters, to charge meter rates, and to make an equitable adjustment of such rates where water is used for other than household purposes.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 14942.

John Rentz, in propria persona.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding, John Rentz, who owns and operates a public utility water system supplying about thirty consumers in the Fairview Heights section of Capitola, Santa Cruz County, asks the Commission to establish a meter rate for his system. The application alleges that certain consumers are wasteful in their use of water for garden sprinkling and avers that the installation of meters will conserve the water supply and result in better service to all the consumers.

A public hearing was held in this matter before Examiner Satterwhite at Capitola.

The rates now in effect are all flat and were filed with the Commission on August 15, 1925, as follows:

\$15.00 per annum - Domestic use for permanent residents.

\$12.00 per annum - For non-permanent residents.

\$19.20 per annum - Domestic and garden irrigation use, permanent residents.

Applicant claimed that the excessive and unregulated demands of some of the consumers for lawn and garden sprinkling overtaxed the capacity of the system and resulted in inadequate service to the other consumers, and further alleged that the above unrestricted use materially increased the operating costs, principally through excessive pumping requirements. The installation of meters, according to applicant, will greatly relieve present inadequate service conditions.

The consumers present generally stated that they had no objection to the adoption of a reasonable meter rate but were not satisfied with the service now being rendered, which they indicated was mainly caused by the fact that the distribution mains are inadequate in size and carrying capacity.

A meter rate will be established in the following order which should produce a reasonable net return upon the investment. However, applicant will be required to render adequate and proper service at all reasonable times and, in the event the applicant fails so to do, the Commission reserves the right herein to direct, by supplemental order, the installation of larger mains and such other improvements as may appear necessary and proper.

O R D E R

John Rentz having applied to the Railroad Commission

for an order authorizing a meter rate to be charged for water supplied to his consumers in the vicinity of Fairview Heights, Capitola, Santa Cruz County, California, 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 present rate schedule of John Rentz, in so far as it differs from the schedule of rates herein established, is unfair and unreasonable and that the rates herein established are just and reasonable rates to be charged for the service rendered.

Basing this order upon the foregoing finding of facts and upon the further statement of facts contained in the opinion which precedes this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that John Rentz be and he is hereby directed to file with this Commission, within thirty (30) days from the date of this order, the following schedule of rates to be charged for all water delivered to consumers subsequent to the 31st day of October, 1928:

METER RATES

Annual Charge:

Minimum annual charge, payable in advance,
 which entitles consumer to a maximum of
 500 cubic feet of water per month for a
 period of eight months-----\$12.00

All use during other months, 500 cubic
 feet or less per month----- 1.50

For use over 500 cubic feet:

Next 3,500 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet-----\$.25
 Next 3,000 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet----- .20
 Over 7,000 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet----- .15

FLAT RATES

Annual Charges:

Domestic rate for permanent residents-----\$15.00
 Domestic rate for non-permanent residents----- 12.00
 Domestic and garden use, permanent residents----- 19.20

Any consumer is entitled to metered service upon application therefor and the utility may meter any and all service connections.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that John Rentz 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 his relations with consumers, said 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 24th day of October, 1928.

Leon Whitall
C. C. ...
...
M. J. ...
 Commissioners.