

Decision No. 21987

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application
of Allensworth Water Company, a
corporation, for a certificate of
public convenience and necessity
for the approval of a proper rate
for the sale of water for irriga-
tion and domestic purposes.

Application No. 16071.

W.C. Haight, for Applicant.

Geo. P. Black, for Consumers. x

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this application, Allensworth Water Company, a corporation, formerly Allensworth Rural Water Company, a mutual company serving water for irrigation purposes to residents of Allensworth, Tulare County, applies to the Railroad Commission for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to operate a water system and for the establishment of rates for the sale of water for domestic and irrigation purposes.

A public hearing was conducted before Examiner Williams at Allensworth.

The application was amended at the hearing to exclude the request for authorization to sell water for domestic purposes.

The evidence shows that, as a result of a formal complaint filed by one of the stockholders, George P. Black, protesting against the operation and practices of the Allensworth

Rural Water Company, the directors and stockholders, on October 11, 1929, resolved to alter the form of organization in order to permit said company to become a public utility and to apply to the Railroad Commission for a certificate of public convenience and necessity. The total outstanding indebtedness of applicant company is \$1,015.80. The company proposes to obtain additional money to conduct water operations and finance improvements by direct assessments to stockholders and from the proceeds of sale of water. According to the testimony, approximately \$4,500. will be required to rehabilitate the system.

Allensworth is an agricultural community about seven miles west of Earlimart, Tulare County. It was organized as a semi-philanthropic colony about twenty years ago by Colonel Allensworth and the Allensworth Mutual Water Company was formed for the purpose of distributing water for irrigation purposes to the colonists. According to the by-laws, the service area is a tract of land consisting of approximately 1,200 acres which was subdivided by the California Colony and Home Promoting Association, but the testimony shows that the present service area is limited to approximately 750 acres. Forty consumers are now being served with water.

Water is obtained from three wells located on the tract known and designated as Wells Nos. 2, 3 and 23. The only one now in active use is Well No. 3 which is equipped with a 6-inch single-stage centrifugal pump operated by a $7\frac{1}{2}$ horsepower electric motor. Well No. 23 is equipped with a deep well pump but is not used at present. There is no pump installed at well No. 2. The only storage consists of a small earthen bank reservoir.

Water is distributed to the consumers through an unlined ditch system.

The present method of operation is to deliver water on demand on an unmeasured basis, allowing each consumer the run of the pump. Only the power costs have been assessed to the various consumers and these costs are prorated according to hours of delivery of water. These charges have been variable in amount and have resulted in considerable dissatisfaction to water users. The testimony shows that the reservoir, distributing ditches and laterals are in poor condition. While no definite testimony was introduced as to the actual capacity of the pumps, it is obvious that the present method of operating with but a single well in service will not provide sufficient water to meet the demands of the area under cultivation. The sale of water based on the run of the pump and distributed through unlined ditches results in the delivery of a variable quantity to the consumers, depending on the distance of the point of delivery from the pump. In order to correct this discrimination, it is suggested that the ditches either be lined or pipe installed, and that measuring devices be installed at each consumer's delivery gate and the water measured at point of delivery instead of at the pump.

No definite plan of operation was presented but the facts indicate that it will be necessary and desirable to distribute the water by rotation on a measured basis according to reasonable rules and regulations to be formulated by applicant and accepted by the Commission. As the company's records are incomplete, the rates must necessarily be fixed on a tentative basis and made comparable to rates on similar systems similarly operated. The rates set out in the accompanying order are de-

signed to meet the ordinary operating requirements and provide adequate service to the consumers. In the event that a trial of these rates for one season develops a need for readjustment, application therefor should then be made to the Railroad Commission.

O R D E R

Allensworth Water Company, a corporation, having made application as entitled above, a public hearing having been held thereon, the matter having been submitted and the Commission being now fully advised in the premises,

The Railroad Commission of the State of California hereby declares that public convenience and necessity require that Allensworth Water Company operate a water system for the purpose of supplying water for irrigation purposes to consumers residing on Tracts 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, and 15, as shown by the Map of Allensworth submitted in evidence in this proceeding, subject, however, to the following conditions:

1. That, within ninety (90) days from the date of this order, Allensworth Water Company submit to the Railroad Commission for its approval a statement giving plans of improvements to be made to the existing source of supply, reservoirs and ditches, said plans to provide for the installation of a suitable measuring box or weir at each consumer's delivery point.
2. That, within ninety (90) days from the date of this order, applicant herein shall submit to the Railroad Commission for its approval suitable rules and regulations governing the sale and distribution of water to its consumers.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Allensworth Water Company be and it is hereby authorized and directed to file with this Com-

mission, within thirty (30) days from the date of this order, the following rate to be effective for all water service rendered subsequent to the 1st day of March, 1930, subject, however, to compliance with the terms and conditions set out above.

MEASURED RATE

Per miner's inch per 24 hrs. (1/50 cubic foot per second) - \$0.07
(Equivalent to \$1.75 per acre foot)

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 16th day of December, 1929.

Thos S. Larkin

Chas. J. ...

Emilio ...

Leon ...

W. J. ...
Commissioners.