

Decision No. 22054

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
 COAST COUNTIES GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY,
 a corporation, for a certificate of public
 convenience and necessity, authorizing
 it to construct a plant or system in
 the Townsite of Avenal, California, for
 the purpose of selling and distributing
 gas and water to the inhabitants thereof
 and adjacent thereto; also, for a certificate
 authorizing it to exercise the
 franchise rights which it contemplates
 securing from the County of Kings.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 16216.

Reginald L. Vaughan, for Applicant.

L.T. Rice, for Southern California
Gas Company.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding, filed January 8, 1930, the Commission is requested to make its order granting Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company, a corporation, a certificate of public convenience and necessity to operate a public utility water and gas system in and in the vicinity of Avenal, Kings County.

Applicant alleges that it is now engaged in the public utility business of distributing gas and electric energy and that its articles of incorporation have been amended to enable it also to engage in the distribution of water, that the Standard Oil Company of California and other companies are actively engaged in oil drilling operations in the locality and that gas and water are needed for domestic, commercial and in-

dustrial purposes for their employees residing in and in the vicinity of Avenal.

A public hearing on this matter was held before Examiner Satterwhite at San Francisco on January 13, 1930.

Charles Grunsky, Chief Engineer of Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company, testified that the source of water supply consists of a well of adequate capacity to supply the present demands and that arrangements had been made to purchase gas from the Standard Oil Company, which has ample supplies in the Kettleman Hills oil field to meet all needs of consumers in Avenal for many years.

The transmission, distribution and storage facilities have not as yet been installed but construction work thereon will be started immediately upon the granting of this certificate, as there now exists an urgent need for both water and gas for domestic purposes. Facilities, as now planned, will be of sufficient capacity and size to meet present needs with sufficient additional reserve capacity to provide for the normal growth in the future. No water or gas service is available within the townsite at present. Applicant does not propose to serve water for oil drilling purposes but desires to limit its obligation in this regard to domestic, commercial and other industrial purposes.

From the evidence, it appears that the Board of Supervisors of Kings County has passed a resolution declaring its intention to grant to applicant herein the necessary authority to occupy its highways and roads with water and gas mains in the vicinity of Avenal. No franchise is required at this time for the Townsite of Avenal, as the streets and alleys therein have not as yet been dedicated to the public use, nor is the community

incorporated.

Applicant testified that it intended to serve the Townsite of Avenal with water for domestic purposes, as well as the adjoining territory lying within one and one-half miles from the center of the town. There are no protests existing at this time against the proposed operation of the water system as requested herein.

Southern California Gas Company appeared and protested the right of applicant to serve in Kings County in other than the Townsite of Avenal on the grounds that this Commission has already granted Southern California Gas Company a certificate of public convenience and necessity to serve in Kings County. Through stipulation, applicant agreed to limit its gas service to an area within one and one-half miles from the center of the present Townsite of Avenal, after which the Southern California Gas Company withdrew all protest to applicant's position.

Applicant proposed schedules of water and gas rates which appear reasonable for the proposed services and will be authorized in the following order.

O R D E R

Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company 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,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a certificate of public convenience and necessity be and the same is hereby granted to Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company, a corporation, to operate a water system for the purpose of supplying water for domestic, commercial and industrial purposes, and also to operate

a gas system for the purpose of supplying gas for domestic, commercial and industrial purposes within that certain area extending one and one-half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) miles from the center of the townsite, subject to the following condition:

1. That Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company shall file with this Commission a map of the Townsite of Arenal definitely fixing the boundary and center thereof.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company, a corporation, be and it is hereby authorized to file with this Commission, within thirty (30) days from the date of this order, the following schedules of rates to be charged for all service rendered on and after the first day of the institution of gas and/or water service:

SCHEDULE FOR SERVICE OF WATER

FLAT RATES

For each service connection-----\$2.00

METER RATES

Monthly Minimum Charges:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| 5/8-inch meter----- | \$2.00 |
| 3/4-inch meter----- | 2.50 |
| 1-inch meter----- | 3.00 |
| 1 1/2-inch meter----- | 6.00 |
| 2-inch meter----- | 8.00 |
| 3-inch meter----- | 16.00 |
| 4-inch meter----- | 30.00 |

Each of the foregoing "Monthly Minimum Charges" will entitle the consumer to the quantity of water which that minimum monthly charge will purchase at the following "Monthly Quantity Rates."

Monthly Quantity Rates:

| | |
|--|--------|
| 0 to 500 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet----- | \$0.40 |
| Over 500 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet----- | .35 |

SCHEDULE FOR SERVICE OF GAS

First 1,000 cubic feet or less per meter per month-----\$1.50
 All over 1,000 cubic feet per meter per month,
 per 1,000 cubic feet----- .50

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company be and it 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 its 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 the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 29th day of January, 1930.

C. S. Scully
Ernest Scott
Leon O'Whelan
John D. Lott

Commissioners.