

Decision No. 25827

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
PUBLIC UTILITIES CALIFORNIA COR-
PORATION for authority to establish
rates for fire hydrants in Ben Lomond
Fire District and Boulder Creek Fire
District, Santa Cruz County, California.

Application No. 18488.

Orrick, Palmer & Dahlquist,
by Hillyer Brown, for Applicant.

H.J. Bias for Ben Lomond Fire District
and Boulder Creek Fire District.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

ORIGINAL

In this proceeding, Public Utilities California Corpora-
tion, which owns and operates a water system supplying the com-
munities of Ben Lomond, Brookdale and Boulder Creek in Santa Cruz
County, asks the Commission to establish rates for fire hydrants.

Applicant alleges that fire protection service has been
provided the Boulder Creek Fire District and the Ben Lomond Fire
District through about ninety fire hydrants (practically all in-
stalled and owned by said Districts and connected to the company
pipe mains), that heretofore such service has been rendered with-
out charge, that applicant now provides an adequate service for
fire protection and is therefore entitled to a reasonable compensa-
tion therefor.

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

The evidence shows that for several years prior to 1932 the supply of water furnished by this utility in the Ben Lomond area for domestic use of the consumers and fire protection purposes was inadequate for these needs, although, by comparison, the service conditions in the Boulder Creek territory were more satisfactory. The service in Ben Lomond and vicinity was greatly improved through installation in 1932 of a six-inch transmission main connecting the Boulder Creek system with that at Ben Lomond, the construction costing thirteen thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine dollars (\$13,939) and placed in service by order of this Commission in Decision No. 24306 issued December 14, 1931. The record of fire flow tests made on the system in November, 1932, by the Board of Fire Underwriters indicates fairly good pressures and volume available for fire hydrant purposes under normal conditions except from pipe mains less than four inches in diameter. In view of the unquestioned value of the fire service now provided by the utility and the further fact that the evidence indicates that applicant is not making a net return upon its total investment in excess of 4.6 per cent, it appears fair and reasonable that it should be granted some just measure of compensation therefor. The rates for fire hydrants established in the following Order should provide fair charges for the class of service made available.

O R D E R

Public Utilities California Corporation having made application to this Commission for an order establishing rates for fire hydrants on its water system serving Boulder Creek,

Brookdale, Ben Lomond and adjoining territory in the County of Santa Cruz, a public hearing having been held thereon, the matter having been submitted and the Commission now being fully advised in the premises,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Public Utilities California Corporation be and it is hereby authorized and directed to file with this Commission, within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order, the following schedule of rates for fire protection service, said rates to be charged for all service rendered subsequent to the first day of March, 1933.

FIRE HYDRANT RATES

For fire hydrants owned and maintained by municipalities or by Fire Districts and installed on mains four inches in diameter, or larger, except hydrants installed on five-inch wooden mains, each per month--\$1.35

For fire hydrants owned and maintained by municipalities or by Fire Districts and installed on five-inch wooden mains, each per month-----\$1.00

For fire hydrants owned and maintained by municipalities or by Fire Districts and installed on mains less than four inches in diameter, each per month-----\$0.40

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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 14th day of February, 1933.

CC Seamy
Leon Whiteley
W. A. Cain
M. B. Harris
McDonald
Commissioners.