

Decision No. 10102.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application of )  
OJAI POWER COMPANY )  
for an order authorizing it to in- )  
crease rates for water sold and de- )  
livered. )

Application No. 7282.

Drapeau, Orr and Gardner, by H. F. Orr,  
for applicant.

I. Gosnell, for the City of Ojai.

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N

This is an application of Ojai Power Company for authority to increase the rates charged for water. The application alleges in effect that the present rates do not yield sufficient revenue and that the utility is operating at a loss. The Commission is therefore asked to permit applicant to make such increases in its present rates as may be found reasonable.

A public hearing was held at Ojai, before Examiner Westover, of which all interested parties were notified and given an opportunity to be present and to be heard.

This system supplies water for domestic purposes in and in the vicinity of Ojai, Ventura County. The water supply is secured by pumping from an eight inch well 185 feet deep. An electrically driven pump lifts the water into a sump from which it is boosted into a 100,000 gallon steel storage tank. The distribu-

tion system consists of approximately 38,600 feet of pipe, ranging in size from three-quarters to six inches in diameter. The system serves about 184 consumers, of whom 128 are metered.

The present rates charged consumers are those fixed by this Commission, by Decision No. 6330, dated May 14, 1919, in Application No. 3950, entitled: In the Matter of the Application of Ojai Power Company for an order authorizing it to increase rates for water sold and delivered. They are as follows:

MONTHLY MEMBER RATES

Minimum Charges:

5/8 inch meter	.....	\$1.00
3/4 " "	.....	1.50
1 " "	.....	2.00
1 1/2 " "	.....	3.00
2 " "	.....	4.00
3 " "	.....	5.00
4 " "	.....	6.00

Quantity Charges:

From 0 to 1000 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet.	\$.25
Over 1000 " " " " " "	0.20

MONTHLY FLAT RATES

For each service ..... \$1.50

Mr. John Spencer, one of the Commission's hydraulic engineers, submitted a report, based upon an inspection of the system and methods of operation, which set forth an estimate of original cost of the property amounting to \$20,890; a depreciation annuity, computed by the sinking fund method, of \$405; and an estimate of reasonable maintenance and operating expense for the future of \$2,662 per year. A careful consideration of all the testimony presented leads to the conclusion that this estimate of maintenance and operating expense should be slightly increased and \$2,750 is therefore allowed for this purpose.

Annual charges based upon the foregoing items are as follows:

Return at 8% upon \$20,890 . . . . .	\$1,671
Depreciation annuity . . . . .	405
Maintenance and operating expense . . . . .	2,750
Total . . . . .	<u>\$4,826</u>

Revenues for the year 1920 were \$3,721, and for the first ten months of 1921 were \$3,410. Estimated revenues for the entire year 1921 amount to \$4,092.

Although there has been a slight but progressive increase in revenues for several years it is apparent that the utility is entitled to some increase in rates, and the schedule set out in the following order will do substantial justice to both the consumer and the utility.

The utility has materially improved service by the installation of increased storage and other facilities and of meters upon many of the services. It is recommended that the metering of the system be continued so as to effect a further conservation of water and more equitably distribute the charges among consumers.

O R D E R

Ojai Power Company having made application as entitled above, a public hearing having been held and the matter having been submitted,

It Is Hereby Found as a Fact that the rates now charged by Ojai Power Company for water delivered to its consumers are unjust and unreasonable in so far as they differ from the rates herein established and that the rates herein established are just and reasonable rates for such service.

And basing the order upon the foregoing finding of fact and upon the statements of fact contained in the preceding opinion,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Ojai Power Company be and the same is hereby authorized and directed to file with this Commission, within twenty (20) days from the date of this order, the following schedule of rates to be charged to consumers in and in the vicinity of Ojai, effective for all water delivered subsequent to February 28, 1922, or the meter reading period next preceding that date:

MONTHLY METER RATES

Minimum Charges

5/8 inch meter . . . . .	\$1.25
3/4 " " . . . . .	1.75
1 " " . . . . .	2.25
1 1/2 " " . . . . .	3.00
2 " " . . . . .	4.00
3 " " . . . . .	5.00
4 " " . . . . .	6.00

Quantity Charges

0 to 2000 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet . . . . .	\$0.25
Over 2000 " " " " " " . . . . .	0.20

MONTHLY FLAT RATES

Residences of 5 rooms or less, occupied	
by a single family . . . . .	\$1.25
For each additional room . . . . .	0.10
For each bath tub. . . . .	0.25
For each toilet. . . . .	0.25
For private garage and one automobile. . . . .	0.25
For each additional automobile . . . . .	0.15
Stores or shops. . . . .	1.50
Soda fountains either alone or in connection with other business . . . . .	2.00
Barber shops with one chair. . . . .	1.00
For each additional chair. . . . .	.50
For each bath tub. . . . .	.50
Hotels:	
For each room with running water . . . . .	.25
For each room without running water. . . . .	.10
For each bath tub. . . . .	.50
For dining room. . . . .	2.00

Restaurants, for each unit of seating capacity . . . . .	\$0.10
Public garages, not more than six automobiles. . . . .	2.50
For each additional automobile . . . . .	0.25
For sprinkling or irrigation of lawns, gardens or shrubbery, per square foot of surface actually irrigated . . . . .	0.005

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Ojai Power Company be and the same 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 its consumers, such rules and regulations to be effective upon their acceptance by this Commission.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1922.

H. B. Brundage  
A. S. Loveland  
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J. P. Boardman  
 Commissioners.