

Decision No. 1553

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Service of
TUJUNGA WATER AND POWER COMPANY,
a corporation.

Case No. 561.

John Beardley, representing Tujunga Valley
Improvement Association;

J. Madison Carter, representing Tujunga Terrace
Improvement Association;

Chas. M. Wilson and F. E. Davis, representing
Tujunga Water and Power Company.

LOVELAND, Commissioner:

O P I N I O N.

On October 6, 1913, this Commission made its order in Case No. 433, - Tujunga Valley Improvement Association vs. Tujunga Water and Power Company, Case No. 434, - Nobura Omura vs. Tujunga Water and Power Company, and Case No. 441, - Tujunga Terrace Improvement Association vs. Tujunga Water and Power Company, which three cases had been consolidated for hearing. The complaints in these cases drew in question the adequacy of the service of the Tujunga Water and Power Company. The decision in these three cases describes fully the source of water of the Tujunga Water and Power Company, the territory served and the manner in which it is supplied. I do not think it is necessary to cover these matters again in the present case, as any one desiring to become acquainted with these matters will find them fully set forth in the prior decision.

The present proceeding was instituted by the Commission on its own initiative on March 13, 1914, as a result of a number of informal complaints alleging that the Tujunga Water and Power Company was still failing to give adequate service and to take the necessary steps to insure an adequate supply of water during the coming summer. A hearing was held in the present proceeding on March 19, 1914. At the opening of this hearing Homer A. Hansen, manager of the Tujunga Water and Power Company, made a statement in which he admitted that his Company had been negligent in the matter of service, but that he was now prepared to proceed with all diligence,--not only to furnish adequate service for the present, but to take steps to insure an adequate supply of water during the dry season. A large number of consumers of the Tujunga Water and Power Company were present at this hearing and were given an opportunity to voice their complaints. The complaints at this hearing may be summarized as follows:

(1) About 900 feet of the pipe line serving the Tujunga Terrace was washed away during the recent floods in Southern California. Delay in the repair of this pipe resulted in the consumers on the Tujunga Terrace being without water for a number of days;

(2) It was alleged that about 2.1 miles of the redwood stave pipe serving Hansen Heights was in poor condition and that in several places the pipe was leaking so badly that it would have to be repaired by putting new staves in the pipe;

(3) Several of the consumers stated that their meters were not in repair and in some instances had not been installed although this Commission had ordered the Company to meter each of its consumers;

(4) The Commission's prior order required that the Company should take on no additional consumers after the date of that order. It was claimed that the Company, in violation

of that order had taken on a few additional consumers;

(5) The consumers stated that they desired to know what steps, if any, were being taken to insure by the installation of pumps or otherwise an adequate supply of water during the dry season;

(6) It was claimed that the tunnel, which was constructed to catch the water in the bed of the Tujunga River, needed cleaning;

(7) The redwood pipe in addition to serving Hansen Heights also supplies a reservoir which is used to serve another tract known as the Villa Vista Tract. The consumers in Hansen Heights claimed that all the water which this pipe would supply was needed for Hansen Heights and that some other arrangements should be made to supply the Villa Vista Tract.

Homer A. Hansen stated on behalf of the Tujunga Water and Power Company that he was prepared to remedy each one of the matters complained of. I desire to summarize briefly the relief which he promised in each case.

With reference to the pipe serving the Tujunga Terrace, Homer A. Hansen stated that there was on hand 6 inch pipe which would be immediately installed as a temporary repair for this break and that the Company intended to later install a 12-inch pipe to supply this Terrace; that steps would be immediately taken to put the redwood stave pipe in good condition by placing new staves in the pipe at the points where it was leaking; that there were at present only five consumers without meters and that the Company had employed a new superintendent who was devoting his entire time to the repairing and installation of meters; that service would be discontinued to consumers who had been added to the system in violation of the Commission's order, so that the water thus used to serve these new consumers would be saved to the former consumers; that the Company proposed to install a pumping plant which would

develop from 100 to 150 inches of water and which would be in operation by the middle of June to supplement the present supply and insure an adequate service during the dry season; that men would be immediately put to work to clean out the tunnel in the bed of the Tujunga River; and, finally, that another pump would be installed to supply the Villa Vista Tract so that when the time of shortage came all the water running through the redwood pipe could be devoted to serving Hansen Heights.

With the assurance given by the Tujunga Water and Power Company that the matters complained of would be remedied, the Commission made no order in this case but held the case open for a further hearing at a later date for the purpose of determining the extent to which the Company had satisfied these complaints.

Further hearing in this case was had on May 15, 1914, and the Company was asked to make a report as to the progress which has been made since the prior hearing. Homer A. Hansen reported that the pipe supplying Tujunga Terrace had been repaired and was in operation within ten days after the prior hearing; that there were at present two leaks in the pipe which would be immediately repaired; that the repair of the redwood pipe for a distance of 2.1 miles had been completed, but steps were now being taken to put the pipe in even better condition; that all of the consumers except two had now been supplied with meters; that subsequent to the prior hearing the Company had installed 10 new meters and had repaired 21 others and that no consumer was now receiving service in violation of the Commission's order; that the shaft for the pumping plant had been started three days previously, material for the shaft having been ordered and the pump being already on hand and that this shaft can be sunk in plenty of time to be in operation when the time of shortage arrives; that 465 feet of the flume which carries the water from the Tujunga

River had been cleaned and that the remainder of the flume and also the tunnel will be restored to the same condition; that due to a change in the course of the Tujunga River it would be possible to supply the Villa Vista reservoir by a gravity flow from a point below that from which the water is taken to supply the Hansen Heights and the Tujunga Terrace, but that the Company also had on hand a pump which would be installed as soon as the gravity flow to the Villa Vista reservoir failed, the result being that all the water running through the redwood pipe will be available for Hansen Heights.

I feel very gratified at the showing made by the Company at this second hearing. I feel further, that the management of the Tujunga Water and Power Company and the consumers of this Company are beginning to work in harmony and to show a spirit of cooperation, which I believe will mean the ultimate solution of the past difficulties and the successful operation of this water system to the mutual benefit of both the utility and its patrons.

There are two further matters which I desire to mention, namely: The size of the pipe serving the Tujunga Terrace and a rotation schedule to be followed by the consumers in irrigating their lands. It was stated at the hearing that the pipe serving Tujunga Terrace which pipe now has an inside diameter of 5-5/8 inches, is not sufficient to supply the water necessary to irrigate the lands included within this Terrace. I have had this matter carefully investigated by the Commission's engineering department, and while I believe the present pipe will suffice for the present season it is certainly not adequate to supply the lands which we may believe will be under cultivation next year. In fact, at the first hearing Dr. Hansen stated that the present pipe was regarded merely as a temporary expedient and that the Company contemplated installing a 12-inch pipe at a later date. While no order will be made at this time, I

recommend to the Company the advisability of installing a larger pipe to serve this Terrace.

With reference to the irrigation schedule I desire to state that this has been a very difficult matter to work out. The Commission's hydraulic department, together with representatives of the utility and representatives of the consumers, has been endeavoring to work out a satisfactory rotation schedule. A schedule has now been completed and forwarded to the utility and its patrons to be put into effect. With the cooperation of both the utility and its consumers we believe there should be no difficulty in working out a schedule which will secure to every one the amount of water to which he is entitled. It may be necessary that slight changes be made in this schedule due to circumstances which it has been impossible to foresee. The Commission feels, however, that if the utility and its patrons will cooperate in this matter the schedule put into effect will work successfully and with such adjustments as it may be necessary to make from time to time will remedy the existing evil and secure to all the consumers the amount of water to which they are entitled.

As I stated before, when the matter of the service of this Company first came before the Commission there was an entire lack of cooperation between the utility and its consumers. This lack of cooperation, I feel, was very largely the cause of the unsatisfactory service which unquestionably existed. I feel now, however, that both the utility and its patrons realize that it is to their mutual benefit to work in harmony. The Commission has, in the present proceeding eliminated the antagonism and petty differences which have arisen between the utility and its consumers, and even between the consumers of different localities, and while I recommend that this proceed-

ing be dismissed without any formal Order directing affirmative action by either the company or its consumers, the Commission will, nevertheless, keep in very close touch with the situation which has given rise to this proceeding, and, if necessary, either re-open this proceeding or institute a new proceeding and make such orders as developments may require.

In conformity with an agreement between the consumers and the officials of the company during the last hearing, an agency of some sort, satisfactory to the consumers, will be established in both Hansen Heights and Tufunga Terrace, which will provide these consumers a means of expeditious communication with the superintendent of the company's system. Considerable controversy developed over the various provisions of the Rules and Regulations recently provided by the Commission. These Rules and Regulations, it appears, have not been definitely put into effect and given a thorough trial.

The Engineering Department of the Commission will further investigate these matters and, if, during the contemporaneous conduct of the company's affairs, under the present rules it is found advisable to make changes, this will be done by a further Order of the Commission.

I recommend, however, that the present proceeding be dismissed at this time, and submit herewith the following form of Order:-

ORDER

The present proceeding having come on regularly for hearing, and the subject matter thereof having been satisfactorily disposed of, as set forth in the above Opinion;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: That the said proceeding be and the same is hereby dismissed.

The foregoing Opinion and Order are hereby approved

and ordered filed as the Opinion and Order of the Railroad Commission of the State of California.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 2nd
day of ~~May~~^{June}, 1914.

Alford
W. G. Gordon
Max Thelen

Commissioners.