

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

W.F. SMITH and WILLIAM DENSMORE,

Complainants,

vs

SOUTH LOS ANGELES WATER COMPANY,

Defendant.

ORIGINAL

Case No. 794

Decision No. 2360

L.C. Craig for Complainants.  
W.A. Robertson for Defendant  
S.M. Haskins for Hercules Oil and Refining  
Company.

O P I N I O N

LOVELAND, Commissioner.

This action was filed with the Commission by residents of Aldine Square Tract, within the boundaries of the City of Vernon. It is alleged that the South Los Angeles Water Company is in a position to serve that Tract with water for domestic use and complainants ask that an order of this Commission be issued to compel the South Los Angeles Water Company to extend its mains so as to serve them with water for domestic and other uses.

A hearing was held in this case in Los Angeles on April 30th, 1915, at which time the Hercules Oil and Refining Company, through its attorney, appeared as an interested party to the proceeding.

Aldine Square Tract lies between Santa Fe Avenue and Alameda Street adjacent to 37th Street and 38th Street in the City of Vernon, comprising about forty acres. The subdivision was put on the market about 1907 by Strong and Dickinson, who piped the Tract and supplied water from a well at their lumber yard. After the Tract was sold out, the water supply from the lumber company failed, and the Hercules Oil and Refining Company was induced to supply the Tract with water from a well developed at their refinery.

This water was too warm to be potable as it came from the cooling chambers at the refinery.

During the time that the Hercules Company was distributing water, the City of Vernon started the paving of Santa Fe Avenue and one of the Councilmen of Vernon asked the Hercules Company to extend a 4 inch main in advance of the paving. This was done at an expense to the Hercules Company of \$3923.76, which expense included branches at the intersected streets and several stand pipes along Santa Fe Avenue for the use of sprinkling wagons etc.

About August, 1914, the customers of the Hercules Company asked the Hercules Company to withdraw their service as a better source of water was available to them. This was readily done and arrangements were made with the Consolidated Lumber Company to furnish them with water, but, after two months, the Consolidated Lumber Company gave up serving them and since then the residents of Aldine Square Tract have managed, as best they could, to supply themselves from independent sources .

It would be possible for the South Los Angeles Water Company to furnish water within a day or two to this Tract if they could agree with the Hercules Oil Refining Company upon a selling price for the 4 inch main laid in Santa Fe Avenue. The parties to this action stipulated that the Commission should determine what would be a fair price to pay the Hercules Oil Refining Company for the pipe in case the South Los Angeles Water Company decided to use it in extending to Aldine Square Tract. The Commission's engineers have reported that they consider \$1200 to be a fair value of the pipe along Santa Fe Avenue which would be useful to the South Los Angeles Water Company, and in case the latter company desires to acquire this pipe line, I hereby fix the amount to be paid as \$1200.

The South Los Angeles Water Company, previous to October, 1911, had extended its mains along some of the public streets in the City of Vernon and has been furnishing water to inhabitants of the City of Vernon for some time. It is, therefore, clear that the South Los Angeles Water Company does not require a franchise before extending farther into the City of Vernon. I shall, accordingly, recommend to the Commission that the South Los Angeles Water Company be ordered to extend its mains so as to serve the inhabitants of the Tract known as Aldine Square.

A letter was filed, as exhibit "2", from Strong and Dickinson, declaring their desire to quitclaim the pipe lines of Aldine Square to any person or persons who would take upon themselves the service of water to that Tract. This leaves only the expense to be borne of the main from the nearest terminal of the South Los Angeles Water Company system.

There are about seventy-three parties in and around Aldine Square who would be willing to take water from the South Los Angeles Water Company. Heretofore these parties paid a flat rate of \$1.00 per month. The South Los Angeles Water Company has a rate of \$1.00 per month outside of Huntington Park, for which they allow 800 cubic feet. If we assume that at least sixty new consumers will be added to the South Los Angeles Water Company, the gross income from the extension will be about \$720.00 per year. Should the Company desire to meter Aldine Square Tract, the expense will be in addition to the extension. However, I consider that the business fully justifies the extension.

The pressure that will be available in Aldine Square will not be equal to that in portions of Huntington Park, but complainants are so anxious to get good water that they should be content with the 20# or so, which it is estimated will be

available. At some later time, when business demands it, provision can be made for a high tank for use in the City of Vernon.

I, therefore, recommend the following order:

O R D E R

W. F. SMITH and WILLIAM DENSMORE having made complaint to this Commission and asked that the South Los Angeles Water Company be directed to lay its mains in portions of the City of Vernon, and a public hearing having been held and it appearing that the best interests of the residents of Aldine Square Tract in the City of Vernon will be served by the granting of the petition, and being fully apprised in the premises, and basing its order on the foregoing opinion,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that South Los Angeles Water Company be and the same is hereby directed to extend, with reasonable diligence, its water mains from the terminal of its present pipes to serve the Aldine Square Tract with water at the regular rates without additional expense to the residents of Aldine Square Tract. The cost of such extension will be a proper capital expenditure and should be considered by the appropriate public authority in establishing the rates to be charged by the South Los Angeles Water Company supplied in the City of Vernon.

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 7th day of May, 1915.

*Max Thelen*

*J. D. ...*

*Edwin O. Edgerton*

Commissioners.