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Decision No. \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 3904

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the application  
of J. W. Minges, for an order au-  
thorizing a uniform charge for  
water service.

)  
) Application  
)  
) No. 2440.

William B. Pringle for applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N

This is an application by J. W. Minges for an order authorizing reasonable and uniform rates for water sold by petitioner in certain subdivisions known as Woodleaf Park, Boyes Springs Park and Sonoma Highlands near Boyes Springs, Sonoma County.

A public hearing in this proceeding was held at Boyes Springs on September 8, 1916. The hearing in this case was consolidated with that of four other water utilities serving adjoining territory, which had filed similar applications. Evidence was presented in behalf of petitioner herein and consumers.

The rates at present charged by J. W. Minges to consumers vary from \$1. to \$2. per month roughly by measure of the facilities for use. A charge of twenty-five cents to fifty cents per month is made when premises are unoccupied. As no meters are in use, a meter rate has not existed.

Applicant has been delivering water to sixty consumers during the present year.

The only appraisal of the property in testimony was presented at the hearing by Milo H. Brinkley, one of the Commission's engineers. This estimate totaled:

Reproduction cost .....	\$1,934.
Reproduction cost, less depreciation .....	1,440.
Annual depreciation, five per cent. sinking fund .....	33.

Figures on the cost of operation are not available as practically all of the labor is performed by the owner of the plant. The cost of power amounted to \$89. during 1915. It is believed that \$360. per year is a fair allowance for operating expenses and taxes, in addition to the cost of power.

The following tabulation shows the annual gross income which applicant should receive from consumers under the allowances herein found to be reasonable.

Interest .....	\$155.
Operating expenses and taxes ..	449.
Depreciation .....	<u>33.</u>
Total .....	\$637.

The income amounted to \$418. in 1915. A change in the present rates will be necessary, in order to produce the required revenue. In establishing a form of rate to yield the necessary gross revenue, the same considerations have been applied as in the rate adjustment for the utility owned by W. H. Turner, considered in Application No. 2438 before the Commission, due to similarity in water use, it being one of the utilities concerned in the consolidated hearing. Although J. W. Minges has not heretofore collected a meter rate, one has been herein established on account of the expressed desire of consumers for its existence.

Applicant should be required to file with this Commission rules and regulations governing service.

We find as a fact, that the rates of J. W. Minges insofar as they differ from the rates herein found reasonable, are unjust and unremunerative and the rates as set out in the order accompanying this opinion are hereby found to be just and reasonable.

### O R D E R

J. W. MINGES having applied to the Railroad Commission for an order authorizing a reasonable and uniform rate to be charged his consumers for water,

And a public hearing having been held and the Commission being fully advised in the premises,

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT by the Railroad Commission of the State of California that the rates now charged by applicant insofar as they differ from the rates hereinafter in this order set out, are unjust and unreasonable, and that the rates set out in this order are just and reasonable rates to be charged by applicant to its consumers for water.

Basing its order upon the foregoing findings of fact and the further findings of fact contained in the opinion preceding this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Railroad Commission of the State of California, that applicant is authorized to file with this Commission the following schedule of rates, said rates to become effective January 1, 1917.

- (a) Six dollars annually to be paid in advance.
- (b) In addition to the annual charge the payment for each month during which water is used as follows:

(1) Flat rates:	
1. Stores and offices .....	\$ .50
2. Houses of four rooms or less...	.50
a. Additional for each room ..	.10
3. Hotels:	
a. Dining rooms .....	2.00
b. Bedrooms per room .....	.10
4. Restaurants .....	1.00
5. Barber shops, per chair, .....	.50
6. Horses or cows each .....	.10
7. Auxiliary uses:	
a. Private toilets .....	.10
b. Private bath-tubs .....	.10
c. Public toilets .....	.50
d. Public bath-tubs .....	.50
e. Soda fountains and icecream parlors.....	.50
f. Irrigation of lawns and gardens per 100 sq. ft. during irrigation .....	.02

(II) Meter Rates:

- \$ .50 for 250 cubic feet or less.
- .20 for each 100 cubic feet or fraction thereof for next 1,750 cubic feet.
- .15 for each 100 cubic feet or fraction thereof in excess of 2,000 cubic feet.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that within the period of fifteen (15) days from the date of this order, applicant shall file for the approval of this Commission rules and regulations governing its service of water.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 2nd  
December  
day of November, 1916.

H. Howard  
W. Gordon  
Frank R. Debra

Commissioners.