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Decision No. _____

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 3905

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the application
of the SONOMA VISTA WATER COM-
PANY for an order authorizing a
uniform charge for water service.

Application

No. 2439.

William B. Pringle for Applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N

This is an application by SONOMA VISTA WATER COMPANY for an order authorizing reasonable and uniform rates for water sold by petitioner in a certain tract or subdivision known as Sonoma Vista, 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 of Sonoma Vista.

The rates at present charged by Sonoma Vista Water Company to consumers are from \$1. to \$1.50 per month, roughly varying by measure of the facilities for use. A charge of fifty cents per month is made when premises are unoccupied. Although meters are in some instances 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 operating property in evidence was presented at the hearing by Milo H. Brinkley, one of the Commission's engineers. This estimate totaled:

Reproduction cost	\$5,124.
Reproduction cost less depreciation	4,798.
Annual depreciation 5% sinking fund	74.

According to the testimony of the Commission's engineer, the plant is capable of serving a much larger number of consumers than now exist. Under the circumstances, we believe that the present consumers should not be required to pay interest and depreciation on the full cost of the system. On account of the similarity between this plant and that owned by W. H. Turner in the matter of number of consumers and service rendered, as well as the probable cost of a plant which would adequately serve the present number of consumers, we are

convinced that the annual returns to applicant from the present consumers need not be greater than has been allowed to W. H. Turner, namely \$687. per year.

The income amounted to \$265. in 1915. It is evident that 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. Although the Sonoma Vista Water Company has not heretofore collected a meter rate, one has been herein established, as some meters have already been installed.

There has been complaint of service among the water users, which the applicant has declared its intention of improving. The rate herein established is fixed with the understanding that the company will be required to provide adequate service.

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

WE FIND AS A FACT that the rates of Sonoma Vista Water Company, 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

SONOMA VISTA WATER COMPANY, a co-partnership, having applied to the Railroad Commission for an order authorizing a reasonable and uniform rate to be charged its 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:

(I) 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 room10
4.	Restaurants	1.00
5.	Barber Shops, per chair,50
6.	Horses or cows, each,10
7.	Auxilliary uses:	
	(a) Private toilets10
	(b) Private bath-tubs10
	(c) Public toilets50
	(d) Public bath-tubs50
	(e) Soda fountains and ice- cream parlors50
	(f) Irrigation of lawns and gardens per 100 sq. ft. during irrigation02

(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 cu. ft.

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

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

H. J. Leland
W. J. Gordon
James R. ...

Commissioners.