

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

# ORIGINAL

Decision No. 3944

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the matter of the application of E. G. HOPSON for certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction of a water system for the irrigation of certain lands in Townships 30 and 31 N. R. 4 W. in Shasta County.

Application No. 2599.

E. G. Hopson for applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

## O P I N I O N.

Applicant seeks a certificate that public convenience and necessity require or will require the construction of an irrigation system, by which water will be diverted from the north fork of Cow Creek, conveyed nearly eleven miles, and distributed to about 3000 acres of land lying on what is known as Stillwater Plain, about 6 miles southeast of Redding, all in Shasta County.

Application was made to the State Water Commission for authority to divert 40 cubic feet of water, which authority it appears will be granted upon condition that certificate of public convenience and necessity be procured from this Commission, that applicant produce evidence

of title at least for right of way over land upon which point of diversion is situated, and evidence that the owners of the irrigable land desire applicant to proceed under his said application to said Commission. The use is to be limited however to 29.6 cubic feet <sup>per second</sup> during times of extreme shortage. Applicant estimates the minimum flow of Cow Creek at 60 cubic feet per second.

Applicant plans to construct pipe line for a distance of about a mile along a little used public road. Transmission line will in places cross other public roads. Applicant anticipates that suitable franchise or permits for this purpose can be readily procured. Provision is made in his estimates for purchase of necessary rights of way over private land.

Applicant submits the following estimates of cost of 55,560 feet of open ditch, 8350 feet of flume and 12,750 feet of 32 inch wood stave pipe, a total of 56,750 feet, all with capacity sufficient for at least 40 second feet:

Excavating 28,000 cu. yds.	\$7000.
Excavating 1500 yds. hardpan	2300.
Structures, farm bridges, culverts under highways, etc.	1500.
Clearing and grubbing en route	1700.
Engineering and contingencies	2500.
Flume, 8350 feet, including engineering and contingencies at 25%	15630.
Pipe 12,750 feet including engineering and contingencies at 25%	30270.
Rights of way	3300.
Diversion dam of logs and rock	500.
Miscellaneous items	690.
Total cost main canals	<u>\$75390.</u>
Distribution system, allowance of \$8.00 per acre for ditches on 3000 acres	24000.
Total estimated cost of system	<u>\$99390.</u>

The above estimates are based upon preliminary surveys not worked out as to details.

Annual charges are estimated by applicant as follows:

Depreciation on wood stave pipe @ 4%	\$1200.
Depreciation on flume at 10%	1500.
Upkeep of permanent works, ditches, etc.	1000.
Renewal of structures	500.
Salary of foreman	1200.
Salary of patrolman (part of year)	500.
Overhead expenses	1800.
Interest on investment	7000.
Total	<u>\$14900.</u>
Revenue, 3000 acres @ \$5.00	\$15000.

Mr. R. W. Hawley, Chief Hydraulic Engineer for the Commission, after brief inspection of the country, and a rough check of the estimates, considers them sufficiently large.

The soil of the area to be irrigated is reported to be uniform in quality, consisting of a reddish clay loam, officially designated as Redding Loam, from 4 to 5 feet deep, underlaid with a stratum of gravel 20 to 40 feet deep, and this in turn underlaid with hardpan.

A small group of men owning the lands to be irrigated have expressed their willingness to pay the

proposed rate of \$5.00 per acre per year for water for a proposed delivery of about 2½ acre feet per year per acre.

As appears from the estimates above, the financial success of operating the enterprise will depend upon the early and continued payment of rates for practically all of the land proposed to be irrigated. Applicant states that the owners of the land are ready to enter into written contract to that effect, and to put the most of the lands into immediate cultivation, which would justify such expense until such time as the lands or portions thereof may be subdivided and sold.

Applicant plans to finance the construction of the system by personally borrowing 70 to 80% of its cost, to be evidenced by long time notes to be secured by mortgage on the property, without the sale of bonds or stock to the public. He reports that the money has been arranged for.

The lands in question are not within the area irrigated or proposed to be irrigated by any other public utility.

#### O R D E R.

E. C. HOPSON, having applied to the Railroad Commission for a certificate that public convenience and necessity require the construction of an irrigation system

by which to conduct water from the north fork of Cow Creek and distribute it upon about 3000 acres of land lying upon Stillwater Plain near Redding, Shasta County, and a public hearing having been held thereon,

The Railroad Commission of the State of California hereby declares that it will hereafter upon application issue a certificate that public convenience and necessity require the construction of the irrigation water system hereinabove described; provided applicant shall present evidence satisfactorily showing:

1. That he has procured from the State Water Commission authority to divert water and distribute it upon the lands above described.

2. That he has procured title to necessary rights of way over private lands, and to franchises or permits for using the necessary public roads and highways.

Any certificate or authority which may issue hereunder shall extend only to such actual construction as shall be commenced within ninety (90) days from the date thereof and finished within six months after it is commenced. During the period of construction, applicant shall file with the Commission monthly reports

showing progress of the work.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 21st  
day of December, 1916.

Max Thelen

H. Howard

W. Gordon

Erwin O. Edgerton

Wm. R. DeWitt

Commissioners.