

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 4499

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application)
of GEORGE VON STADEN for an order)
authorizing said applicant to) Application No. 2952
discontinue the supplying of water)
for domestic use.)

Sans and Hudson for Applicant

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

Applicant is operating a public utility water system, supplying water for domestic and garden uses to the residents of Lehrke Tract near El Verano, Sonoma County. Applicant asks authority to discontinue this public utility service, or in the event the request to discontinue is denied that the Railroad Commission make an order fixing just and reasonable rates for the service rendered.

The residents of the Lehrke Tract are at present dependent for water upon the public utility system of applicant, and applicant has not shown any good reason why the service should be discontinued, and, accordingly, this request must be denied. We shall, accordingly, consider the question of just and reasonable rates.

The evidence shows that the plant cost \$3,091.04 when it was installed in 1910. The cost during the last year for power used in pumping, with no restrictions on

use, was about \$80.00. The cost of labor incidental to looking after the plant is now \$10.00 per month. To date nothing has been expended for repairs. The Commission's engineers estimate that the cost of maintenance and operation, with suitable annuity to cover depreciation will amount to \$305.00 per annum. In this case, a water rate which would provide for maintenance and operation and pay a fair rate of return upon the total investment would be prohibitive with so few consumers established. A considerable portion of the investment could be properly charged as a benefit enjoyed by the owner of the 80 acre tract. The fact that water is developed for the 240 acres, which were subdivided and sold, would undoubtedly greatly increase the value of the 80 acres remaining.

O R D E R

George Von Staden having applied to the Railroad Commission for authority to discontinue service of water upon the Lehrke Tract near El Verano, Sonoma County, or if such authority be not granted, that rates be fixed for such service, and a public hearing having been held, and the matter now being ready for determination,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the application to discontinue service be, and it is hereby, denied.

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT that the rates existing for applicant's water service are not compensatory and are unreasonable, and that the rates hereinafter set forth are reasonable ^{rates} for such service.

Acting upon said finding of facts and the findings of fact contained in the opinion preceding this order,

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that George Von Staden be, and he is hereby, empowered to charge and collect the following schedule of rates for water service supplied by his pumping plant located near El Verano, Sonoma County, said schedule of rates to be filed in duplicate with this Commission within twenty (20) days from the date of this order:

FLAT RATES

\$1.00 per month per family,
For each toilet per month - 25¢
For each bath-tub per month - 25¢
For each head of stock per month - 25¢
For irrigation of lawns and gardens -
25¢ per 100 square yards.

METER RATES

First 1,000 cubic feet per month - 15¢
per 100 cubic feet
Over 1,000 cubic feet per month - 10¢
per 100 cubic feet
Minimum monthly charge - \$1.25.

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
1st day of August, 1917.

H. D. Howard
W. H. Gordon
Edwin C. Folger
Frank R. Brown

Commissioners.