

Decision No. _____

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 14960

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

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CITY OF SAN BRUNO,

Complainant,

-vs-

HENSLEY-GREEN COMPANY as
SAN BRUNO WATER COMPANY.

Defendant.

CASE NO. 1119.

H. A. Mason, City Attorney, for complainant.
Phil J. Strubel for defendant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

The issue raised by the pleadings is the adequacy of water service in a portion of San Bruno, San Mateo County. A public hearing in the matter was held by Examiner Westover at San Bruno. The water system in question is owned and operated by the Hensley-Green Company, a real estate firm which subdivided the territory now served into building lots. The system was installed beginning about 1903. The water business is operated under the fictitious name of San Bruno Water Company. By stipulation the Hensley-Green Company was substituted as defendant.

Testimony showed that there has been inadequate pressure at a number of widely separated points on the lines; that the water is frequently sandy and sometimes discolored by rust; that many times water cannot be obtained through domestic water fixtures, this condition frequently existing during the night or early morning hours.

The system supplies about 260 to 275 consumers distributed over a district one and three-quarters miles long and averaging about a quarter of a mile wide, extending

northerly and southerly. The three wells and pump with a capacity of about 6000 gallons per hour, are located in the extreme southeast corner of this tract and the two storage tanks with a total capacity of about 60,000 gallons, are located in its extreme southwest corner. The distribution system consists of about 66,300 feet of pipe ranging from one inch to four inches in diameter. About 25,500 feet of this is one inch pipe, much of it installed at a great distance from the storage tanks. During the summer the pump is often operated at capacity as much as 20 hours a day, both tanks being filled twice a day. Apparently the wells are frequently pumped to capacity and water drawn away so rapidly that sediment from the wells has no opportunity to settle.

Only about a dozen meters are in use, water being served on a flat rate. The testimony indicates that many consumers are very careless and waste great quantities of water by leaving faucets open at night as the tanks are frequently empty by 5 o'clock in the morning after being left full late the previous night.

The remedy is obvious. Water should be conserved through the use of meters and the establishment of rates by quantity. The distribution of water should be facilitated by installing larger pipe in portions of the system.

The pumping plant was destroyed by fire on the night of August 12, 1917, and for a few days following that date inadequacy was, naturally, greatly accentuated. The day following the fire new equipment was ordered and later installed. As the condition following the fire was temporary, the opinion and order herein are based upon conditions existing prior to the fire. Immediately following the fire, water was supplied to the system by South San Francisco Water Company. That company desires to discontinue the increased service as soon as possible. Since the hearing, Spring Valley Water Company has indicated a willingness to supply water from its transmission main passing through San Bruno provided defendant agrees to certain terms.

The testimony indicated hesitancy on the part of defendant in making permanent improvements in its system for the reason that

there has been a movement toward municipal ownership of water works in San Bruno.

San Bruno is served by three separate water companies. A representative of one of the other companies testified concerning the general conditions surrounding the water situation in San Bruno, and advocated a consolidation of the three systems. Both parties to this action have invited the Commission to offer any suggestions which it feels will tend to aid in the final solution of the entire water problem of the city. The Commission is not sufficiently informed concerning the other systems and the needs of the city at large to offer suggestions of value further than to say that we naturally favor any action which will result in more economical operation. This would probably follow a consolidation of the several systems.

The Spring Valley Water Company has offered service on terms which if satisfactory to defendant, we suggest be accepted and that application be made for service connection.

O R D E R

A public hearing of the above case having been held, evidence having been taken and the matter having been submitted and being now ready for decision,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Hensley-Green Company file, within thirty (30) days from the date of this order, plans for the improvement of its system to provide for a pressure of not less than twenty pounds per square inch at all points on the distribution system where there are consumers, the plans filed to include connection not less than two inches in diameter with the pipe mains of the Spring Valley Water Company, and the installation of meters at the option of the consumers or the utility but at the expense of the Hensley-

Green Company or San Bruno Water Company.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that within thirty days of the date of the approval of the plans filed, the Hensley-Green Company commence construction and exercise due diligence in its completion.

October Dated at San Francisco, California, this 22nd
day of ~~September~~, 1917.

H. B. Loveland
Alex Gordon
Edwin O. Edgerton

Commissioners.