

Decision No. _____

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 4845

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

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In the matter of the application of WILLIAM S. VAN HOOSEAR and MARGARET P. VAN HOOSEAR for permission to discontinue the supplying of water to a number of persons living in Castro Valley, Alameda County, California.

) Application No. 3184.

W. B. Rinehart and A. S. Craig for applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

WM. S. VAN HOOSEAR and MARGARET P. VAN HOOSEAR, his wife, apply for authority to discontinue the service of water for domestic purposes to fifteen or sixteen consumers in Castro Valley, about two and one-half miles from Hayward, . Alameda County.

A public hearing in the matter was held by Examiner Westover at Hayward on November 2, 1917.

In 1905 applicants purchased a ranch containing about 30 acres on which were located three small springs. They developed the springs into storage wells, sank a fourth well or cistern for storage purposes, and conveyed the water through about 6000 feet of pipe to their home.

In 1907 they laid about 200 feet of three-quarter inch pipe underground and began service to a neighbor. In July, 1908, applicants laid about 1800 feet of one inch pipe underground and began service to five or six neighbors who had wells but a limited supply of water. Other neighbors

subsequently became consumers until now applicants furnish water through about sixteen services.

All consumers have been served at the uniform rate of 75¢ per month minimum, for 1500 gallons of water, the same rate being applied to excess use. One consumer, however, was supplied with water free for about three years but has been charged for the service since September, 1916.

Applicants rely largely upon the fact that in conversation with a number of the present consumers or their predecessors in title, it was stated that the service was expected to be temporary until the consumers could dig wells. In no case, however, was a definite period fixed in the beginning, when the service should cease. In a number of instances no discussion was had in reference to the permanent or temporary character of the service.

In these discussions, consumers were notified that water could be supplied for domestic purposes only, and not for irrigation. The water is used for cooking and household purposes, in some cases for growing a few flowers, and in others, for several hundred chickens. The services are metered and no complaint is made as to waste of water. The amount of water developed by applicants' springs and wells is roughly estimated from the testimony to be about 750 cubic feet per twenty-four hours. A number of ^{the} consumers have wells designed to supply irrigation water for small areas, usually not exceeding a quarter or half acre.

Applicants' desire to discontinue service so that they may sell their ranch to better advantage through being able to devote all of their limited water supply to irrigation service on their ranch. Nearly all of the present consumers desire to retain the present service from applicants' springs

because the water is soft and superior in quality to that obtained from their own wells. In several instances consumers have no wells or other possible source of supply without carrying water in buckets from neighbors.

The utility serving water nearest this territory is the Hayward Water Company serving Hayward. The distance between its pipes and applicants' is about 2.7 miles. The average depth of wells in the vicinity where applicants are serving is about 45 to 50 feet, the most of this depth having to be blasted in solid rock. The depth of the top soil varies from 2 to 10 feet.

In view of the fact that a number of applicants' consumers have no other adequate source of supply and that several of them have provided storage facilities relying upon water service from applicants, and as applicants do not at present propose to furnish any other supply in lieu of that from their present property, the application must be denied.

O R D E R

WILLIAM S. VAN HOOSEAR and MARGARET P. VAN HOOSEAR having applied to the Railroad Commission for authority to discontinue the service of domestic water to certain consumers in Castro Valley, Alameda County, and a public hearing having been held thereon, and it appearing to the Commission that for the reasons set forth in the opinion preceding this order, the application should be denied,

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 15th day of November, 1917.

Wm. S. Van Hoosear
Margaret P. Van Hoosear
William O. Edgerton
Frank C. O'Connell
COMMISSIONERS.