

Decision No. 5921-

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

---oOo---

THE ATRAUGE BOARD OF TRADE,
Complainant,

-vs-

CITY WATER & IMPROVEMENT COMPANY,
Defendant.

ORIGINAL

Case No. 1140.

W. N. Billing for complainant.
Samuel Mink for defendant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

This is a complaint against the service rendered by the City Water & Improvement Company in the delivery of water for domestic and irrigation uses to the inhabitants of Alpaugh, Tulare County.

The complaint alleges in effect that service is intermittent and inadequate, and that an insufficient supply of water is delivered for the needs of consumers. Complainant prays for an order directing defendant to provide adequate facilities, that defendant be directed to install meters and that rates be established which will produce an income sufficient to meet the expenses of the plant in order that service may be bettered. The answer denies all the material allegations and alleges that the rates are inadequate.

A public hearing in this matter was held by Examiner Westover at Alpaugh.

Defendant was organized February 3, 1906, with a capital stock of \$25,000 divided into 2000 shares of the par value of \$12.50 each of which 572 shares were sold at par

and the proceeds used to install the pumping plant and system. Service of water for domestic use and for limited irrigation use began in the fall of 1906. Since that time five assessments of \$1.25 each per share have been levied and 157 shares of stock sold for delinquent assessments and bought in by the company for lack of bidders.

Water has heretofore been delivered through 72 services at a flat rate of \$1.50 per month per service. Service has been admittedly intermittent and inadequate.

The quantity of water delivered approximates 1000 gallons per capita per day, due largely to leakage from defective pipes and waste of water by consumers. Average consumption in communities of this type varies from 100 to 200 gallons per capita per day.

This wasteful use of water by consumers is not only increasing the expense of operation, but also deprives other consumers of their fair share of the water and makes poor service almost certain. Test made by the Commission's Hydraulic Engineers shows the pumping plant has adequate capacity even if consumption is largely in excess of normal for a city of this character. However, with the tank at its present elevation the pressure is insufficient to force a sufficient quantity of water through the pipe system.

Intermittent service has been partially due to the motor, which drives the pump, burning out because of a defective automatic cut-out. This should be remedied either by repair or replacement.

In order to give good service it appears necessary that the tank be raised to a sufficient elevation to provide adequate pressure, that the system be metered and that the pumping plant be repaired.

Defendant maintains that its financial condition is such that it cannot finance these improvements.

Defendant will therefore be permitted to put into effect a rule requiring applicants for measured service to deposit the cost of meter and installation, the amount deposited to be returned as a credit on water bills.

An appraisal of the plant was submitted by C. H. Loveland, of the Commission's Hydraulic Division, showing an estimated cost now of \$10,835 and a sinking fund annuity of \$398. No other appraisals were submitted.

The Commission's engineers examined the records of the company's expense incurred in the past for maintenance and operation and found a total average annual expenditure of \$800. This appears to be a fair estimate of future expenditures. There will be an added expense entailed because of the installation of meters, which expense must be added in computing a measured rate schedule. The evidence shows that this will approximate \$200 per year, including maintenance, operation, interest and depreciation.

The total annual charges set put above are as follows:

Interest on \$10,835 at 5%.....	\$857.00
Maintenance and operation.....	800.00
Annuity.....	<u>398.00</u>
Total.....	\$2065.00

To meet this expense defendant has heretofore received a revenue of approximately \$1000 per annum.

It is estimated that the rate schedule set out in the order following will produce sufficient revenue to meet the above charges.

O R D E R

Complaint having been made against City Water & Improvement Co. and public hearing having been held and the matter having been submitted,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that City Water and Improvement Company make the following improvements to be completed within six months from date:

(1) Raise its storage tank to an elevation at least 20 feet above its present elevation.

(2) Repair or install automatic cut-out for motor.

(3) Install a meter on each domestic service and wherever practical on irrigation services.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that City Water & Improvement Company file amended rules and regulations within 30 days to be effective upon acceptance for filing by this Commission.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the following rate schedule be filed and put into effect, as of December 1st, 1918:

RATE SCHEDULE

1 - For residences of not more than five rooms occupied by single families, including bath	-\$1.25	per month
For each additional room, -----	.15	" "
2 - For hotels and lodging houses, in addition to the family rate for each room with water tap, -----	.20	" "
For each room without water tap, -----	.15	" "
3 - For toilet in hotels or public places, -----	1.00	" "
For each additional toilet -----	.25	" "
4 - For one public bath tub in hotels, lodging houses or bathing establishments, -----	1.50	" "
For each additional bath tub -----	.50	" "
For each private bath tub in hotels or lodging houses, -----	.20	" "
5 - For restaurants and dining rooms of hotels -	2.00	" "
6 - For small store and shops, including water for washing windows and sidewalks -----	1.00 to 2.00	per month

RATE SCHEDULE-Cont'd

7 - For large stores and warehouses, including water for washing windows and side-walks,-----	\$2.00 to 4.00 per month
8 - For photograph galleries-----	2.00 to 5.00 per month
9 - For rooms occupied as offices, for each room with water tap,-----	.50 per month
10 - For doctors' or dentists' offices not exceeding two rooms, with water tap----	1.00 " "
Each additional room with water tap----	.50 " "
11 - For bakeries, in addition to store rate, for each bbl. of flour used-----	.05 " "
12 - For soda fountains, in addition to store rate-----	1.50 to 4.00 per month
13 - For blacksmith, wagon or machine shops, where one forge is used-----	1.50 " "
For each additional forge used-----	.25 " "
14 - For livery, feed and sales staples,	2.00 to 6.00 per month
15 - For private stables, for one horse and buggy, including water for washing same,	.25 " "
For each additional horse or cow-----	.10 " "
16 - For public garages, including water for washing cars-----	2.00 to 8.00 per month
17 - For private garages, including water for washing cars, for each car kept-----	.25 " "
18 - For barber shops where not more than one chair is used-----	1.50 " "
For each additional chair-----	.50 " "
19 - For use of cold storage machines, in addition to store or warehouse rates,---	2.00 to 4.00 per month
20 - For laundries or wash houses-----	3.00 to 5.00 per month
21 - For public water troughs, for each trough-----	1.00 to 3.00 per month
22 - For public halls, clubs or lodge rooms--	1.00 per month
23 - For all irrigation including lawns, for the first 100 square yards irrigated----	40¢
For each square yard additional-----	1/8¢

RATE SCHEDULE--CONT'D

- 24 - For steam engines not working over ten horsepower per day, for each horsepower so used-----50¢ per month
For all working over ten horse power per day, for each horsepower so used-----40¢ " "
- 25 - For gasoline engines, per H.P.-----10¢
- 26 - For building and plastering for water used by plasters for use in slacking each barrel of lime----- 10¢
For water used by brick layers to make mortar and dampen brick, for each 1000 bricks laid----- 10¢
For water used to dampen lath per 1000- 10¢
For water used to moisten cement, per bbl.----- 10¢
- 27 - For water used to settle earth when replacing it in a ditch, for each cubic yard of earth----- 1¢
- 28 - Water for all purposes not specified in the above will be delivered by the measured rate.

MEASURED RATES

400 cubic feet or less-----	\$1.00 per month.
For water used between 400 and 1000 cubic feet-----	.17 per 100 cu. ft.
For water used between 1000 and 10,000 cubic feet-----	.12 " " " "
Over 10,000 cubic feet-----	.05 " " " "

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 14th
day of November, 1918.

Edwin O. Egan
W. J. Cleveland
James G. Brown
Frank R. Verby
Commissioners.