

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 5988

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the matter of the application of)
J. H. STUBBE for order authorizing) Application No. 3971.
applicant to increase rates for water)
at Ravenswood, San Mateo County.)

J. H. Stubbe in propria persona.
E. E. Humphrey, in propria persona.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

J. H. Stubbe applies for authority to increase the rates for water served for domestic uses to about eight consumers in Ravenswood, a suburb of Palo Alto, Santa Clara County.

A public hearing was held upon the application by Examiner Westover at Palo Alto.

Applicant operates in connection with his ranch a small water plant thereon consisting of well, pump, motor, wooden tank, distributing mains and five meters installed. To this was added shortly before the hearing pump and motor costing \$210 to install. The plant was originally installed by the subdividers of the tract, which consists of about 130 acres. The mains consist of 2, 3 and 4 inch pipes, being much larger and more extensive than are needed to serve the present consumers.

As applicant's system is much overbuilt, and he has but a limited number of consumers, it is apparent that a rate which will be reasonable for the present limited number of consumers to pay, will not permit a return upon investment in this system or in any system sufficient to serve the present few scattered consumers. We therefore will fix a present rate designed to produce at least the cost of maintenance, operation and depreciation, leaving any surplus which may arise, to be applied on account of investment. It is therefore unnecessary to determine in this instance what sum should be used as a rate base on which to compute a return to applicant.

Mr. Wm. Stava, one of the Commission's hydraulic engineers, estimates the depreciation annuity at \$128, and power bill at about \$72 per year.

Applicant desires to increase his rates from \$2.00 per month for general domestic purposes to \$3.00 per month, or \$5.00 a month where lawns and gardens are maintained. The meters installed have not been used as a basis for rates. The testimony shows that a large amount of water is wasted under the flat rates charged.

Applicant testified that the Palo Alto rate applied to a measured quantity of water used by one of his consumers, would have produced a revenue of \$4.00 to \$6.00 a month. Some consumers present expressed willingness to pay increased rates under the circumstances found here.

O R D E R

J. H. STUBBE having applied to the Railroad

Commission for an order authorizing him to increase rates for water served for domestic uses, and a public hearing having been held and the matter being now ready for decision,

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION HEREBY FINDS as a fact that the rates herein established are just and reasonable rates and that the rates heretofore charged by said applicant are unjust and unreasonable, in so far as they differ from the rates herein established.

Basing its order on the foregoing findings of fact and on the further findings of fact contained in the opinion preceding this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that J. H. Stubbe be and he is hereby authorized to file with the Railroad Commission within twenty days from the date of this order and thereafter charge the following rates for water served to the inhabitants of Ravenswood.

FLAT RATES

For residences of not more than five rooms occupied by single families.....	\$1.25
For each additional room.....	.15
Private bath tubs or toilets, each.....	.15
Private stables for one horse and buggy, including water used.....	.50
For each additional horse or cow.....	.10
For each additional vehicle.....	.20
For private garages, including water for washing cars, for each car kept.....	.50
For irrigation of lawns, gardens and grounds by use of hose for sprinkling when used with water for household purposes, for the first 100 sq. yards of ground irrigated.....	.50
For each square yard over 100 sq. yds.....	.00 $\frac{1}{2}$
Water for all purposes not specified above will be delivered at measured rates.	

MEASURED RATES.

300 cu. ft. or less.....\$1.00
For water used between 300 and
2000 cu. ft. per 100 cu. ft..... .25
Over 2000 cu. ft. per 100 cu. ft..... .18

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that J. E. Stubbe be and he is hereby authorized to file with the Railroad Commission within twenty days from the date of this order and thereafter put into effect the following rule:

A meter will be installed on any service upon the request of the consumer provided the consumer deposit the estimated cost of the installation. Any amount above actual cost will be returned when installation is complete and the remainder of deposit applied on water bills at the rate of one-twelfth per month. J. E. Stubbe may install meters at his option.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 16th
day of December, 1918.

Edwin D. Edgerton
W. A. Lawrence
W. E. Brown
W. H. Brown
Commissioners.