

Decision No. 6214

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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In the Matter of the Application of A. J. MARTIN for permission to raise price of water sold by him from 1 cent to 2½ cents per miner's inch per hour.	) { { { )	Application No. 3901.
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In the Matter of the Application of A. J. MARTIN for permission to dis- continue the service of irrigation water.	) { { )	Application No. 4338.
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A. J. Martin in propria persona.

MARTIN, Commissioner.

O P I N I O N

The above entitled proceedings were consolidated for hearing and decision by the consent of all parties thereto.

Applicant in Application No. 3901 alleges, in effect, that he is the owner of forty acres of land in the vicinity of Baldwin Park, Los Angeles County; that in order to irrigate it he constructed a well, pumping plant and pipe system; that as an accommodation water was sold at the rate of 1 cent per miner's inch per hour to owners of adjoining lands for irrigation, and that this rate is unremunerative, and asks that the rate of 2½ cents per miner's inch per hour be established.

The application in No. 4338 sets out that the applicant, A. J. Martin, is compelled, because of his business, to be absent from his ranch and <sup>water</sup> plant a large portion of the time, and that it

works a hardship and a financial loss upon him to be compelled to continue the operation of his water system as a public utility and asks to be permitted to discontinue service. The applicant in these proceedings desires primarily to discontinue service, and if he is not permitted to do this, asks that he be authorized to increase rates.

Applicant is operating a small water utility in the vicinity of Baldwin Park, Los Angeles County, and is delivering water to four consumers for the irrigation of their ranches. Between 125 and 175 acres have been irrigated from this plant annually during each of the past three years. The plant consists of an electric motor with appurtenant switchboard and wiring, a belt driven American deep well pump, a concrete line shaft 98 feet deep with a 12 inch bored well 90 feet deep below the bottom of this shaft, a 10 inch galvanized iron discharge pipe extending into a corrugated iron receiving basin and about 1200 feet of 12 inch concrete pipe.

A public hearing was held in these proceedings in Los Angeles on February 6, 1919.

Mr. Frank E. Werner, one of the consumers, appeared and protested against the granting of the application to discontinue service and stated that it would work a hardship upon him because at this time he could not install a pumping plant to irrigate his land. He stated, however, that in his opinion the rates should be increased to \$2.00 per hour's operation of the pump, the capacity of which as operated at present is approximately 120 miner's inches.

It appears from the evidence that it will be necessary for Mr. Martin to have a man on his ranch to operate it and that it will work no hardship for him to continue service and that it will materially injure his consumers if he is permitted to dis-

continue operation.

Applicant has assumed this obligation and it would not be fair to his consumers to permit him to discontinue.

An analysis of the cost of operation presented by the Commission's Engineers shows a cost of \$1.86 per hour's operation of this plant. A segregation of this follows:

Power cost per hour,.....	\$1.00
Attendance per hour,.....	0.35
Sundries,.....	0.10
Proportion of interest,.....	0.28
Proportion of depreciation,.....	<u>0.13</u>
Total, .....	\$1.86

This sum is the cost for the actual hours of operation and some allowance should be made for idle time and increased costs of operation.

It is apparent that the rate of \$1.50 per hour's operation of the plant, which Mr. Martin refers to as 1 cent per miner's inch per hour, is not remunerative, and as Mr. Martin is compelled to continue his plant in operation, it is just that he receive adequate compensation for the service rendered, and I shall, therefore, recommend that a rate of 1 3/4¢ per miner's inch per hour be established, which is at the rate of \$2.00 for each hour's operation of the pump at its present rate of discharge.

It further appears that Mr. Martin has in the past bartered with each consumer as to the rate to be paid, and has not conformed to the legal rates in effect. The rate herein established must be charged each consumer, unless permission to change is granted by this Commission.

I submit the following form of order:

### O R D E R

Application having been made by A. J. Martin for authority to discontinue service or to increase rates, and a public hearing

having been held, and the Commission being fully advised in the premises,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that A. J. Martin be and he is hereby authorized and directed to file with this Commission within twenty (20) days of the date of this order and thereafter charge the rate of  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ per miner's inch (one-fiftieth cubic foot per second) hour.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the application of A. J. Martin to discontinue service be and the same is hereby denied.

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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 1919.

Edwin O. Edgerton

H. D. H. H. H.

Walter R. H. H.

H. H. H. H.

James H. H.

Commissioners.