

Decision No. 6269

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of  
FRESNO CANAL & LAND CORPORATION for  
authority to increase its rate of  
charge for rental of non-contract  
water.

Application No. 4325.

Short & Sutherland, by W. A. Sutherland,  
for Applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N.

This is an application by Fresno Canal & Land Corporation for authority to increase its non-contract, or so-called rental service rate for water for irrigation from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per acre, per year.

Public hearings in this proceeding were held in Fresno on February 28th and March 31st, 1919, before Examiner Bancroft.

From the evidence it appears that applicant is furnishing water for irrigation purposes to 213,550 acres of land in Fresno County, of which only 2,450 acres are supplied under the rental or non-contract service, the remainder being served under contracts between the Fresno Canal & Irrigation Company, applicant's predecessor in interest, and the owners of said land. It further appears that the lands furnished with the non-contract service are widely scattered throughout the territory served and that the cost of such service is far in excess of the cost of service per acre on lands irrigated under contract.

One of the additional items of cost is due to the fact that applicant has to have every tract of land irrigated under the non-contract service examined before the water is furnished, in order to determine the number of acres to be supplied; and thereafter during the irrigation season, it is necessary to have these tracts re-examined from time to time, to prevent more than the proper amount of land being irrigated.

Although notice of the hearing in this matter was duly published in a newspaper of general circulation in the territory affected by this proposed increase, no one appeared to protest against the same.

Under all the circumstances, we are of the opinion that applicant should be permitted to increase the rate in question from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per acre, per year.

#### O R D E R.

FRESNO CANAL & LAND CORPORATION having applied to the Railroad Commission for authority to increase its non-contract or so-called rental rate for water for irrigation purposes from one dollar (\$1.00) to two dollars (\$2.00) per acre per year, public hearings having been held on said application and the Commission being fully advised in the premises,

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION HEREBY FINDS AS A FACT that the present rate of said Fresno Canal & Land Corporation is unreasonable and non-compensatory and that the rate herein authorized is a just and reasonable rate.

Basing its order on the foregoing finding of fact and on the further findings of fact contained in the opinion

which precedes this order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Fresno Canal & Land Corporation be and it is hereby authorized to establish and charge a rate of one dollar and 50/100 (\$1.50) per acre per year for its non-contract or so-called rental service of water for irrigation purposes, said new rate to become effective upon the filing of the same, provided it is filed with this Commission within twenty (20) days from the effective date of this order.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 16th day of April, 1919.

Edwin O. Edgerton

H. S. Loveland

H. R. Dunning

Josiah Martin

Commissioners.