

Decision No. 6325

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

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L. E. HANCHETT,

Complainant,

vs.

KATHERINE C. HENDERSON,

Defendant.

Case No. 1267.

Corbett & Selby and Chas. B. Younger
for complainants.
Walter H. Linforth for defendant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

Complainant, a resident of Capitola, near Santa Cruz, and a consumer upon defendant's system, complains of an inadequate supply of water and poor pressure and prays that defendant be required to install an adequate and sufficient water system. The answer denies all the material allegations of the complaint.

A public hearing was held before Examiner Westover at Santa Cruz, at which testimony was offered on behalf of both parties.

Defendant's system has for many years supplied domestic water to the inhabitants of Soquel and Capitola, near Santa Cruz. Its water supply is diverted

from Bates Creek and conveyed by gravity about 6800 feet
and
to a junction point/about 150 feet beyond to Soquel Reservoir,
which is used to store excess water and as a settling base
during the rainy season; and about 5000 feet beyond the
junction point to Capitola storage Reservoir. There is
also a second dam not now used which would divert water at
a point about 22' higher than the present point of diver-
sion and only about 500' from it. Its use would require
the elevation of the two reservoirs.

Capitola has a large summer colony during
July, August and September. During that part of the year
the gravity supply becomes exhausted and water must be
pumped from a 4" artesian well 135 feet deep. The present
pumping equipment has a capacity of 2000 gallons an hour.
Water is delivered from it into Capitola Reservoir. The
system supplies 206 services of which only 17 are metered;
about 147 serve permanent residences and 59 serve temporary
consumers during periods from a few weeks to a few months.
In addition, during the summer defendant serves about 100
cottages and concessions belonging to her. From the tes-
timony it appears that the only complaints of poor pressure
are from the so-called hill section which will be next
referred to.

Complainant's dwelling and grounds, which
are extensive, are located on a hill at an elevation of
about 60' above that of the remainder of Capitola. On
the hill are about 60 consumers, only 11 of whom are per-
manent. The highest point served on the system is about
12 feet lower than the top of the Capitola Reservoir and

14' lower than the top of Soquel Reservoir. Owing to poor pressure complainant installed a pump and tank on a tower and pumps directly out of the main. This practice tends to still further reduce pressure in services on the hill. With the improvement in defendant's system for which provision is made in the order, it will probably be unnecessary for complainant to operate his pumping plant. If he wishes to do so, however, he should pump from a cistern or sump and not directly from the mains. In any event his service connection should be reduced from a 2½" to a 1" connection.

Mr. Wm. Stava, one of the Commission's assistant hydraulic engineers, made an inspection of defendant's system and has submitted his report pursuant to a stipulation that it might be received as an exhibit in the case. Neither of the parties submitted any engineering testimony but defendant requested technical advice as to the best method of improving the service and operating the system. Mr. Stava in his report discusses three means of improving service: Developing more water by wells or installing meters on all consumers, or installing a pumping plant at Capitola Reservoir to lift water into a tank and operate the hill section of the system independently. He recommends the latter course as the only one which will necessarily meet the pressure requirements of consumers on the hill.

The testimony shows that defendant's pumping plant when in use is operated not to exceed twelve hours a day. Operated to capacity for twelve hours a day does not produce sufficient water to adequately serve all consumers during the season of largest use. As the pump is

operated by electric energy it appears that the hours of pumping during the height of the season could be greatly increased at relatively small outlay for labor when compared with the cost of installing additional pumping equipment.

Considerable complaint was made at the hearing of the leaky condition of the transmission mains and of the fact that Soquel Reservoir was damaged by earthquake some years ago and has not been adequately repaired. It appears, however, from Mr. Stava's inspection and report that the transmission mains will probably give adequate service for a number of years with ordinary repairs. While the means adopted for repairing the leaky reservoir has not proven entirely successful, this apparently does not seriously affect the service complained of, particularly as there is no complaint of shortage of water except during part of the summer.

O R D E R.

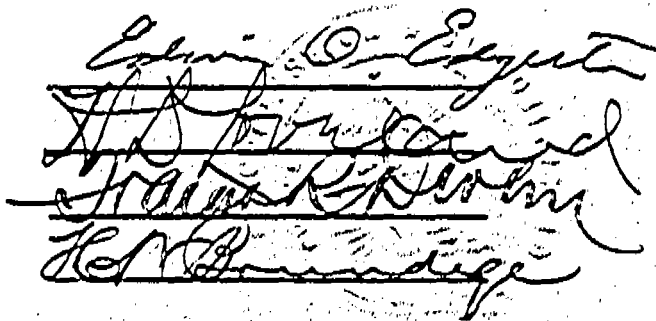
A public hearing having been held in the above entitled case, the matter having been submitted and being now ready for decision,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that defendant deliver a sufficient amount of water to adequately serve all of her consumers at all times by operating her pumping plant longer hours during the summer season or by other adequate means; that she reduce the size of complainant's $2\frac{1}{2}$ " service connection to a 1" service connection; and that within 60 days from date hereof she install tank of at least 12,000

gallon capacity placed on a tower at least 30' higher than the high water mark in Capitola Reservoir, together with a small pump to pump water from the reservoir into the tank and that during said period she install meters on the services of her larger consumers.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that within 20 days from date complainant formulate and submit to the Commission a proposed rule to be effective after approval by it, providing that consumers may not pump water out of the mains of defendant's system.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 12th day of May, 1919.



Commissioners.