

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 6378

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of)
 B. F. STEFFEN, doing business under)
 the firm name and style of CHICO VECINO)
 WATER COMPANY, for permission to install) Application No. 4255.
 meters, charge deposits for same, estab-)
 lish a minimum rate and revise the pres-)
 ent schedule of charges.)

 B. H. Steffen, in propria persona
 C. C. Cooper, in propria persona
 Samuel J. Nunn, in propria persona

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION ON APPLICATION FOR REHEARING

Applicant petitions for a rehearing, alleging that the rates authorized by Decision No. 6253, of April 14, 1919, will not produce the annual charges shown, because the conditions in the territory served by applicant preclude even the minimum use of water shown in the schedule authorized by the Commission. The conditions referred to are not stated in the petition.

A public hearing was held by Examiner Westover at Chico on May 28th.

As shown by the decision referred to, the rates authorized were based upon the assumption, in the absence of adequate data of applicant, that water use and service would be about the same as that in other localities similarly situated.

Applicant testified on rehearing that the district served by him in Chico Vecino, has no sewers, and that of the 265 service connections on his system, less than 35% are connected with cesspools or septic tanks; that 135 connections are to houses having no sanitary conveniences and no lawns, although the majority of them have kitchen sinks; and that 110 houses on his system have lawns and sanitary conveniences. He also testified that owing to the hot summers, over 10% of his consumers usually discontinue service and move away during the hottest months; that he had 29 such disconnections last summer, and 12 such disconnections during May, 1919.

Since the original hearing, applicant has installed meters on practically all services. The new rates have not been placed in operation, the effective date of the original order having been extended by the Commission pending the determination of the petition for rehearing, in accordance with the usual custom. Therefore, there has been no actual test of the new rates and their effect upon the revenue.

Applicant testified that he had just finished reading the meters for May, 1919, and made a computation showing what the revenue for the first 27 days in May would be at the new rates authorized, from which computation it appeared that if the new minimum charge of \$1.00 were to include 300 cubic feet of water instead of 500 cubic feet, it would be satisfactory to him, and would probably produce sufficient revenue. From the showing made for the first time on rehearing, that so many of applicant's consumers use a very small quantity of water, and that so many discontinue service for a considerable part of the year, we are satisfied that this modification in the

rate schedule should be made, and that the new schedule of metered rates should be placed in effect at once.

Several consumers appeared at the hearing and complained of poor pressure on that portion of the system acquired from J. A. McFeeley, and that their consumption of water would have been much larger if the water had been available when needed, but that the pressure had been largely improved just before the hearing. It appeared from the testimony that the poor pressure was probably due to the fact that a valve supposed to be open, had through misunderstanding, been left closed, and that by keeping an adequate supply of water in the tank on applicant's 80-foot tower, and keeping the pipes free of obstructions, there should be adequate pressure throughout the system. The increase in rates is authorized upon the understanding that applicant will furnish adequate service.

ORDER

B. E. STEFFEN having applied to the Railroad Commission for a rehearing and modification of the order contained in Decision No. 6253 of April 14, 1919, and the following modification appearing by the testimony to be justified,--

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the rate schedule set forth in said order be and it is hereby modified to read as follows, as requested, said new schedule of rates to be applied to meter readings for water service during May, 1919:

.Monthly Metered Rates

First 300 cubic feet, per month, - - - - -	-\$1.00
Between 300 and 2000 cubic feet, per 100 cu. ft.-	.15
Over 2000 cubic feet, - - - - - " 100 cu. ft.-	.12
Minimum monthly charge, - - - - -	1.00

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 3^d day of
June, 1919.

Edwin D. Edgerton
H. S. Loveland
H. B. ...
Commissioners.