

Decision No. 6872.

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

R. V. Griffin, et al.,)	
Complainants,)	
vs.)	Case No. 1356.
Sycamore Canyon Water Company,)	
Defendants.)	

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N

The above entitled proceeding is a complaint of R. V. Griffin and some twelve other water consumers residing in Sycamore Canyon, adjoining the City of Glendale in Los Angeles County, against Sycamore Canyon Water Company, a public utility water company, engaged in the business of supplying water for domestic and irrigation purposes in that territory.

The complaint alleges in effect that the supply of water furnished by defendant is entirely inadequate and that it has steadily and alarmingly decreased since June 1, 1919, there being such a shortage that gardens and shrubbery have died from lack of water; also that the water furnished by defendant is unsanitary, due to the fact that its reservoir is not covered.

The complaint further alleges that the City of Glendale has offered to furnish defendant a supply of 15,000 gallons per day at the rate of five cents per hundred cubic feet, provided defendant will extend its mains to connect with the system of the City of Glendale, which extension, it is estimated, would cost approximately \$500.

Complainants are of the opinion that the above offer, if accepted, would relieve not only the existing water shortage, but would insure against shortage in the future. However, complainants state that it is understood that this offer has been declined by defendant.

Defendant in its answer to the above complaint, says that the needs of the water consumers of Sycamore Canyon would be amply provided for by the acquisition of the water supply offered by the City of Glendale, and that it would be necessary to expend approximately \$600 to make the necessary connections from its mains to the mains of the City of Glendale to obtain said supply. As defendant does not have the required amount of money available for the above purpose, it is stated that J. C. Anderson, the majority stockholder in the Sycamore Canyon Water Company, and upon whose lands the primary source of supply is located, has offered to purchase from defendant for the sum of \$600, all its rights, title and interest in and to the waters of Sycamore Canyon, and the right to develop same, and thereby defendant will be financially able to acquire the water supply from the City of Glendale in the manner indicated.

The Sycamore Canyon Water Company was originally organized as a mutual water company, but has for several years past been conducted as a public utility, and water is sold at flat rates to the various consumers.

Public hearings were held in this matter and testimony established the fact that for seven or eight months of the year there is usually sufficient water from the present sources of supply. However, during the present summer this supply has become so seriously decreased as to amount to only a fraction of the demand even when augmented by the utmost output from a well which is located near defendant's reservoir. Inadequacy of the summer service has been established by evidence and by admission of defendant. Clearly the responsibility is upon the utility to provide an increased amount of water to its consumers sufficient to supply them adequate service at all times. The method proposed in the answer to the complaint, and by counsel at the hearing, in regard to financing the proposed additional supply to be obtained from the City of Glendale, namely, disposing of the company's water rights for the sum of \$600, elicited vigorous protest at the hearing and it appears that it would be poor policy for the Commission to authorize such a measure. However, it is very evident that the service provided by the Sycamore Canyon Water Company to its consumers during the summer months of 1919 has been insufficient, and that with its present facilities, the utility cannot render adequate service. It is further evident that an adequate supply of water is available through an arrangement with the City of Glendale, as outlined in the complaint and the answer thereto, and as detailed at the hearing by representative of the City of Glendale, and that complainants are entitled to immediate relief.

It is therefore ordered as follows:

O R D E R

Complainants in the above entitled matter having made

application to the Railroad Commission for an order requiring defendant to furnish an adequate and sanitary supply of water, public hearings having been held, and the Commission being fully apprised in the premises,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Sycamore Canyon Water Company proceed immediately to avail itself of additional water supply, this supply to be obtained from the City of Glendale as outlined in the complaint and the answer thereto, or in such other manner as will enable the utility to provide at all times an adequate and sanitary supply of water for the needs of its consumers.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Sycamore Canyon Water Company shall report in writing to this Commission within ten (10) days after the date of this order, the manner in which its water supply is to be augmented, and the progress made toward that end, together with a complete statement of the manner in which it is proposed to finance this project.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 28th
day of November, 1919.

Edwin C. Edgerton
H. D. Lovell
H. T. Brundage
Jessie Martin
Commissioners.