

Decision No. 7009.

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the application of
the Williams Water and Electric Com-
pany, a corporation, for permission
to increase rates.

)
)
) Application No. 4788.
)

Seth Millington, Jr., for applicant.

E. M. Alberry, for protestants.

LOVELAND, Commissioner:

O P I N I O N

The above entitled application is an application brought by the Williams Water and Electric Company, asking for an order authorizing an adjustment and increase in water rates. Applicant delivers water for domestic and irrigation purposes in and in the vicinity of Williams, Colusa County, California, and alleges that its present income from rates is insufficient and non-compensatory.

The rate schedule now in effect was established by this Commission in its Decision No. 835, Application No. 525, decided July 29, 1913, "In the Matter of the Application of Williams Water and Electric Company for permission to establish a rate for metered water service". (Vol. 3, p. 203, Opinions and Orders of the Railroad Commission of California), and are as follows:

For the first 1000 gallons or less\$1.00
For each additional 1000 gallons or
fraction thereof 0.10

At the public hearing held in this proceeding at Williams, certain consumers appeared and protested against the proposed increase in rates, alleging in effect that the present source of water supply will not produce an adequate quantity for their needs and that applicant's equipment is insufficient to maintain such service, and therefore no rate increase should be granted.

Mr. C. K. Sweet, manager and principal stockholder in this company, testified that the company had installed a new well and pumping equipment which, in his opinion, would increase the quantity of water available, and that it would be sufficient to meet all reasonable demands of the consumers. He admitted, however, that poor service had been rendered in the northern portion of the town, which affects some twenty-seven consumers, and stated that this condition would be remedied by the installation of a new pipe line.

Applicant is now delivering water to some 150 consumers of which approximately one-half are on a measured basis. It appears that a large portion of these meters are $1/2$ " x $5/8$ " in size, and that this size is too small for the use to which they are being put and should be replaced as soon as practicable by larger meters.

It appears from the protests voiced by those consumers present at the hearing, that no objection would be made to an increased rate, provided adequate and satisfactory service is maintained.

Evidence as to the proper rate base upon which to compute the interest return was submitted at the hearing. Applicant contends that an interest return should be provided upon the sum of \$12,000. The Commission's engineers made a thorough investigation of this plant in this respect and it appears from their investigation that this is a reasonable rate base.

An investigation of the operating expenses heretofore incurred by applicant was made by Assistant Hydraulic Engineer, R.E. Child, who reported that the 1918 expenditures were \$1502. This includes only a small sum for the salary of the man operating this plant,

and it appears that the allowance for this item should be increased.

The following tabulation sets out the sums, which it appears, after a careful consideration of the evidence, should be produced annually.

Operating Expenses	\$ 2,050
Replacement Fund	300
Interest	<u>960</u>

TOTAL -----\$ 3,310

The gross income produced by the present rate schedule was \$2,302 in 1918. It is therefore apparent that applicant is entitled to an increased rate and I shall so recommend.

The record shows that only approximately one-half of the consumers are receiving water on a measured basis. This Commission has expressed the opinion in numerous instances that the only satisfactory method of delivering water is on a metered basis, and I recommend to applicant that it install meters as soon as practicable on those services which are now unmetered. This would reduce waste and conserve water, thus improving service conditions.

I submit the following form of order:

ORDER

The Williams Water & Electric Company having made application for permission to increase rates charged to its consumers, a public hearing having been held thereon, and the Commission being fully apprised in the premises,

It is hereby found as a fact that the rates now charged by the Williams Water & Electric Company are unjust and unreasonable insofar as they differ from the rates herein established, and that the rates herein established are just and reasonable rates to be charged by the Williams Water & Electric Company, and

Basing its Order upon the foregoing finding of fact and upon the further statements of fact contained in the opinion which precedes this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Williams Water & Electric Company be, and it is hereby authorized to file with the Railroad Commission within twenty (20) days from the date of this order, and thereafter to charge the following rates for water served by it to the inhabitants of Williams and vicinity:

METERED USE

1. Monthly minimum payment:

1/2" meter	\$1.00
5/8" or 3/4" meter.....	1.25
1 " meter	1.75
1 1/4 " meter	2.00
1 1/2 " meter	2.50
2 " meter.....	3.50

2. Monthly meter rates:

First 600 cubic feet per 100 cu.ft....	\$0.25
Over 600 cubic feet per 100 cu.ft.--	0.15

MONTHLY FLAT RATES

1. Residences, boarding houses, apartments, lodging houses, tenements or flats of five rooms or less with one bath and one toilet....\$1.50

For each additional room.....	0.25
" " " bath.....	0.30
" " " toilet	0.30
Private garage and one automobile.....	0.25
For each additional automobile.....	0.25
For private barn with one horse or cow.....	0.50
For each additional horse or cow.....	0.25
2. Sprinkling or irrigation of lawns, shrubbery, etc., per square yard
3. Blacksmith shops, machine shops, lumber yards, printing offices, bakeries, undertaking parlors, grocery store, dental offices, theatres, warehouses, and butcher shops.....
4. Drug stores and photograph galleries.....
5. Bottling works, creameries, slaughter houses and laundries

6.	Banks, professional offices, billiard parlors, fraternal halls, club rooms, churches, shoe stores, plumbing shops and all stores not otherwise listed.....	\$ 1.50
7.	Offices for each room.....	0.50
8.	Restaurants, chop houses and cafes, per unit of seating capacity.....	0.15
9.	Livery stables and feed yards per average number of stock fed, each	0.25
10.	Barns in connection with stores, shops, etc., not more than two horses	0.50
	For each additional horse.....	0.25
11.	Public garages, 6 autos or less	3.00
	For each additional auto	0.25
12.	Soda fountains or ice cream parlors, either alone or in connection with other business.	2.00
13.	Additional for each bath tub, toilet or urinal in Nos. 3 to 12, inclusive.....	0.30
14.	Barber shops per chair	1.00
	Additional for each bath tub.....	1.00
	" " " toilet	0.50
	" " " urinal.....	0.30
15.	Saloons or soft drink establishments	3.00
	Additional for each toilet	0.50
	" " " urinal	0.30
16.	Hotels:	
	Dining rooms, including kitchen.....	2.00
	Bedrooms with running water, each.....	0.25
	Each bath tub.....	0.50
	" toilet	0.50
	" lavatory	0.50
17.	Steam engines per horse power.....	0.10
18.	Public drinking fountain	1.50
19.	Public water trough	2.50
20.	Building Work:	
	For mortar and to dampen 1000 bricks.....	0.35
	For each barrel of cement	0.15
21.	For fire hydrants off 4-inch main or larger.	1.50
	Off main smaller than 4-inch.....	0.75
22.	Street sprinkling per 100 cubic feet.....	0.15
23.	Other public use at metered rates.	
24.	Meters shall be installed on fifteen days' notice at the request of any consumer who desires to be charged at meter rates.	
25.	The company shall have the right to install a meter on any service connection and thereafter charge meter rates as herein authorized.	

The collection of the above rates are expressly conditioned upon the company furnishing an adequate supply to the consumers.

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, this 8th day of January, 1920.

Edwin O. Edgerton

A. D. Loveland

H. B. Bundege

Commissioners.