

Decision No 7012.

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Commission's)
Investigation on its Own Motion)
into the Rates, Rules, Regulations)
and Service for the supply of water)
by A. B. Shaw.)

Case No. 1334.

A. B. Shaw, Jr., for A. B. Shaw.
George E. Woodruff for the Pasadena
Glen Improvement & Protective
Association.

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N

This is an investigation on the Commission's own motion into the rates, rules, regulations and service of A. B. Shaw, who owns and operates a small public utility water system delivering water for domestic and irrigation uses in Pasadena Glen, Los Angeles County, California.

The investigation herein disclosed that the service was very unsatisfactory to patrons of this utility, due to inadequacy of supply and storage facilities. There was no protest regarding the rates.

A field investigation of this system was made by the Commission's Hydraulic Division, which reports that in order to render adequate service a further supply of water must be developed, additional storage facilities provided, and greater care exercised in operating the system. It appears that a further supply can

be developed by either lengthening the present tunnels, driving new tunnels for the gathering of the underground water supply, or sinking a shaft in the floor of the valley where indications appear favorable.

A part of the water supply is obtained through ownership of 117 shares of stock in the Vosberg Water Company, a mutual concern. Heretofore eleven of a total of seventeen consumers receiving their water supply from this system, have been supplied with such water as they received from water delivered by the Vosberg Water Company. The remaining six consumers receive their water supply from three water tunnels.

The district served, which is located in Pasadena Glen, materially varies in elevation. With the present system, those consumers located at the higher elevations receive unsatisfactory service due to lack of pressure, even though a plentiful supply of water be available. This condition can be remedied by the construction of a reservoir at a higher elevation than the present reservoir. The construction of such a reservoir, and the enlargement of the existing reservoir, would aid not only from this standpoint, but would also enable Mr. Shaw to impound the water being delivered from the Vosberg Water Company, thus obtaining the entire quantity allotted to him because of his ownership of stock. It is therefore advisable, in order that adequate service be rendered, to obtain an additional water supply by either of the two methods stated above, and pump from this additional development into a reservoir to be constructed at an elevation sufficient to provide adequate pressure at services of upper consumers, and so increase the storage capacity of the present reservoir that the greatest use can be made of the supply delivered from the Vosberg Water Company.

The rates now in effect are the result of arbitrary establishment of a rate for each new consumer by Mr. Shaw, and result in discrimination.

In order to install the above mentioned improvements, it will be necessary to expend a considerable sum, and it would therefore be unfair at this time to base a rate schedule upon the cost of the present system and the present operating expenses. The gross revenue for the year 1918 was \$168.75, whereas operating expenses totaled approximately \$97.50 exclusive of taxes and interest upon investment and replacement fund. If these are included the total annual charges would exceed the income. It therefore is advisable to remove the existing discrimination in rates and increase the gross revenue by the establishment of a temporary rate schedule to remain in effect until such time as the improvements herein ordered are installed and adequate service rendered.

In this connection, attention is directed to the fact that a large proportion of the consumers spend only their week ends and vacations in Pasadena Glen. The rate schedule established herein is so designed that it provides for the payment by these consumers of approximately their share of the burden of maintaining this system.

At the hearing herein, Mr. Shaw contended that he is not operating a utility for the delivery of water for irrigation uses. All of the consumers have only a comparatively small area surrounding their residences. Furthermore, these lots were sold to them by Mr. Shaw, either directly or indirectly, and it is most assuredly only justice to them that he be required to deliver a sufficient supply of water to enable them to beautify their places by planting gardens, shrubbery, etc. Moreover, it is the duty of the operator of a public utility to establish and maintain amicable relations with his consumers, and do all within his power to so operate the system that his consumers are satisfied not only with the service received, but also with the treatment accorded them.

ORDER

This Commission having instituted an investigation on its own motion into the rates, rules, regulations and service rendered by A. B. Shaw, the owner and operator of a public utility water system in Pasadena Glen, Los Angeles County, and a public hearing having been held and the Commission being fully apprised in the premises,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that A. B. Shaw be, and he is hereby directed to install additions and improvements to the water system herein referred to, and charge rates for service rendered by him, as follows:

1. That an additional water supply be developed and additional storage constructed at the upper portion of the Glen, capable of giving adequate service to those consumers whose premises are at too great an elevation to receive proper service from the present reservoirs.

2. That the reservoir adjacent to the reservoir of the Vosberg Water Company be so enlarged as to utilize to the greatest advantage the supply received by that company.

3. That detailed plans, showing how it is proposed to comply with the above order, be filed with this Commission not later than February 1, 1920, and the construction of these improvements shall be pursued diligently in accordance with the plans and specifications approved by the Commission and shall be completed not later than June 1, 1920.

4. That the following temporary schedule of rates be filed with this Commission not later than twenty days after the date of this order, effective for all service subsequent to January 1, 1920.

Meter Rate -

Ten (10) cents per 100 cubic feet, minimum \$1.50 per month.

Flat Rate -

For each dwelling, occupied continuously, \$1.50 per month.

For each dwelling, occupied intermittently, payment may be made in two semi-annual installments of \$6.00 each.

5. That a complete file of proposed rules and regulations be submitted to this Commission for its consideration and approval.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 9th day of January, 1920.

Edwin O. Edwards
H. D. [unclear]

H. H. [unclear]