

Decision No. 7484

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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In the Matter of the Gas Service of	)	
SOUTHERN COUNTIES GAS COMPANY in the	)	Case No. 1422
City of Santa Barbara and vicinity	)	
on the Commission's own motion.	)	

W. P. Butcher, for the City of Santa Barbara,  
 Leroy M. Edwards and W. G. Griffith, for  
 Southern Counties Gas Company.

BRUNDIGE, Commissioner.

O P I N I O N

This Commission's attention was called to certain alleged conditions ~~in~~ relative to gas service in Santa Barbara and vicinity, by H. A. Adrian, representative of the Taxpayers' League, whereupon the Commission upon its own motion instituted an investigation and held a hearing in Santa Barbara on March 31, 1920, for the purpose of hearing complaints relative to the gas service rendered by Southern Counties Gas Company in Santa Barbara and vicinity.

Contentions had been made by Mr. Adrian of mismanagement of the Gas Company's affairs resulting in lowered efficiency and increased cost of gas to the consumer, of excessive and unnecessary salaries, unwarranted luxury of automobiles and quarters,

mysterious and considerable increases in gas bills, and poor quality of gas.

At the hearing of this case, Mr. Adrian failed to appear or present evidence in support of any of the above contentions. Complaint was heard from one consumer of the gas company, claiming that the quality of the gas was unsatisfactory, resulting in excessive cost to him for repair of his appliances, also that the pressure maintained at his service was insufficient, resulting in increased gas usage.

Investigations which have been made from time to time by the Commission's engineers showed that the quality of gas made and distributed by the Southern Counties Gas Company at Santa Barbara was in conformity with General Order No. 58 of this Commission, prescribing certain standards for heating quality, pressure and purity of gas. These matters were reviewed in the present investigation by the Commission and the Southern Counties Gas Company further submitted the results of a house to house canvass of consumers which failed to reveal other than a generally satisfactory condition. None of the contentions enumerated in Mr. Adrian's letter have been substantiated, and being of the opinion that the present quality of gas service supplied by the Southern Counties Gas Company in the City of Santa Barbara and vicinity is satisfactory, adequate and in conformity with the requirements of General Order No. 58 of this Commission, I recommend dismissal of this matter.

#### O R D E R

The Railroad Commission having instituted an investigation into the character and quality of gas service supplied by Southern Counties Gas Company in the City of Santa Barbara and

vicinity, a public hearing having been held and the investigation showing generally satisfactory conditions of gas service,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above entitled proceeding be dismissed without prejudice.

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, California, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1920.

H. D. Loveland  
Frank K. Levin  
H. B. Brundage

Commissioners.