

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 7641.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Commission's)
Investigation into the Rates, Rules,) Case No. 1409.
Regulations, Service and Practices)
of Mountain Water Company.)

H. A. Magee for Mountain Water Company.

Miss Edith Howard for Consumers.

MARTIN, Commissioner.

O P I N I O N

The above entitled matter is a proceeding instituted for the purpose of investigating service conditions obtaining under the system of the Mountain Water Company, a public utility engaged in the business of supplying water for domestic purposes in Lamanda Park, Los Angeles County, California.

Numerous informal complaints had been filed by consumers under this system, alleging insufficient supply and unsatisfactory service conditions. These matters were taken up by letter with the management of Mountain Water Company, but it appeared impossible to obtain relief through informal proceedings. Accordingly the Commission issued its order directing Mr. F. H. Post, Secretary and Manager of the company, to appear and show cause why the service rendered by Mountain Water Company was unsatisfactory, and furnish such other information concerning the rates, rules, regulations, practices and financial condition of his company as might be required of him.

A public hearing was held in this matter, at which all interested parties were given an opportunity to be heard, and prior

to the hearing a field investigation of the plant and system of the company in question was made by a representative of the Commission's Engineering Department.

At present there are some 146 consumers supplied by Mountain Water Company, and it appears that the service rendered is unsatisfactory and the supply of water inadequate. A large percentage of the pipe comprising the distribution system has been installed for a period of between thirty and thirty-five years, and it is therefore now closely approaching the end of its usefulness.

The distribution system as at present constructed is improperly designed in that there are insufficient cross-connections between the principal distribution lines. This results in the numerous dead ends and renders it impossible for the water to properly circulate. It appears that no attempt has ever been made to remedy this defect.

Respondent admits that the service in general is poor and also admits the inadequacy of its pipe lines, but contends that its water supply is not sufficient to take on any new consumers, and that it is financially unable to make any improvements.

The present sources of supply of this company are the Precipice Canyon Water Company; the Pasadena Consolidated Water Company, from whom a certain amount of water is purchased during the dry season; and a tunnel on respondent's property in Eaton Canyon.

Near this tunnel there is a well which, some years ago, produced a steady flow of ten or twelve miner's inches, but which is not being used at the present time. It is thus evident that respondent has under its control an additional source of supply which it is making no attempt to use, and its contention with reference to insufficiency of supply is without merit, inasmuch as the well could and should be repaired and put in operation. If this is done it appears that respondent will have a sufficient supply of water to serve additional consumers, and the evidence shows that heretofore many applicants for

service have been refused because of respondent's contention that there was not sufficient water available for such service.

As a public utility, Mountain Water Company is under obligation to the public to render adequate service. The company's claim that it is financially unable to make the necessary betterments, repairs and replacements to render good service is not persuasive in view of the fact that it has never applied to this Commission for authority to increase its rate schedule. If its revenue is insufficient to provide necessary operating expenses, replacements and interest return, it has at all times had available recourse to this Commission for relief.

The evidence shows that if good and adequate service is to be rendered by Mountain Water Company, it will be necessary that said company install certain additional pipe lines and repair and replace portions of its distribution system. The improvements which respondent is directed to install will materially better service for the present, but it will be necessary for this company to install further improvements from time to time, as needed.

O R D E R

The Railroad Commission having instituted an investigation as entitled above, a public hearing having been held, and the Commission being fully apprised in the premises,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Mountain Water Company be, and it is hereby directed to install the following replacements and improvements in its distributing system:

1. The present pipe line on Railroad Avenue from Santa Anita Avenue to Daisy Street shall be replaced with a new pipe line of not less than three inches in diameter.

2. A new two-inch pipe line shall be laid on Daisy Street, connecting the present line on that street to the new three-inch line on Railroad Avenue.

3. A main shall be laid on Sierra Grande Street connecting

with the main on Daisy street, to close the existing gaps, thus making the main on Sierra Grande Street continuous. This main shall be of sufficient size to give adequate service to consumers.

4. The present pipe line on Sunny Slope Avenue shall be connected to the lines on Colorado Street, Nina Street and Railroad Avenue.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that the work on said improvements and replacements shall be begun within ten (10) days from the date of this order, and that within twenty (20) days of the date hereof, and at the end of each succeeding thirty (30) days thereafter until the work is completed, the Mountain Water Company shall file with the Railroad Commission a statement showing the progress made in the intervening period.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that all work specified in this order shall have been completed within ninety (90) days of the date hereof, and at the completion of the construction work herein ordered, a certified statement shall be filed by Mountain Water Company with the Railroad Commission indicating that the work has been completed in accordance with the conditions of this order.

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 27th day of May, 1920.

Edwin O. Cuyler
H. B. Loveland
Frank R. DeWitt
Dwight Martin

Commissioners.