

Decision No. 7785.

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of)
Pacific Gas & Electric Company, a)
corporation, for an order of the)
Railroad Commission of the State of)
California, authorizing applicant)
to eliminate existing deviations from)
its schedule of metered water rates)
in force and effect in the City of)
Oroville and vicinity.)

Application No. 4939.

C. P. Cutten and R. W. DuVal for Applicant.

R. A. Leonard for the Mt. Ida Packing
Company and the Ehmann Olive Company.

E. D. Brereton for the Western Ice & Fruit
Cooling Company.

Charles Schloef for the Swayne Lumber Company.

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N

Applicant in the above entitled proceeding is the owner of a public utility water system through which it distributes water to the City of Oroville for municipal uses, and to consumers in and in the vicinity of said city for domestic and commercial purposes. It is alleged by applicant that the rates now in effect, being those charged and collected by its predecessor in interest, the Oro Water, Light and Power Company, contain certain deviations from the regularly established rates, and in this proceeding applicant asks for authority to remove said deviations and establish a certain schedule of rates which will more equitably distribute the charges for the service rendered.

The rates now in effect in the City of Oroville for metered water service are as follows:

For large quantities of water where the quantity does not exceed 20,000 gallons per month, there shall be charged for each 1000 gallons consumed, to be determined by meter or otherwise,..... 20 cents.

Where the quantity used is more than 20,000 gallons per month, for each 1000 gallons over that amount,..... 15 cents.

Applicant is now and has for some time past been furnishing and supplying water to certain of its larger consumers in the City of Oroville at rates which are different than the established rates applicable to the particular class of service rendered, as shown by the schedules of the company. A list of said consumers, together with the rates at which water service is being furnished and supplied, is as follows:

Western Ice and Fruit Cooling Co.,3¢ per M. Gals.
Ekmann Olive Co.,\$20.00 per month.
Southern Pacific Ry. Co., 25.92 per month.
Western Pacific Ry. Co., 18.10 per month.
Natomas Rock Crushing Co., 30.00 per month.

Applicant alleges that the schedule of rates which it proposes to establish will produce less than the total revenue now received and prays for an order authorizing the establishment of said schedule and the removal of deviations in its existing water rates.

A public hearing was held in this matter and all interested parties were given an opportunity to appear and be heard.

At the time the Public Utilities Act became effective, the Railroad Commission required all utilities to file schedules of their regular charges. If there were any exceptions or deviations from their regular rates, the companies were required to file them separately, and these exceptions have usually been retained in effect until such time as the Commission had occasion to make a revision of the entire schedule of rates and charges of the company in question. This Commission has never passed upon the reasonableness of the present

rates of Pacific Gas and Electric Company at Oroville, and it is unnecessary to do so in this proceeding.

Testimony shows that there are 1659 consumers supplied by the water system at Oroville, of whom nine have metered service. Three consumers of comparatively large quantities of water, the Southern Pacific Company, the Western Pacific Railway Company and Natomas Rock Crushing Company, are unmetered.

It was also shown that the present deviations from the rates established by ordinance give certain consumers a decided advantage over others. The Hamann Olive Company in 1919 used 11,462,250 gallons for \$240.00, or at the rate of 2.1 cents per thousand gallons, and Western Ice and Fruit Cooling Company used 9,376,756 gallons for \$283.96, or at the rate of 3 cents per thousand gallons. On the other hand, Mount Ida Packing Company used 3,488,988 gallons for \$530.13, or at the rate of 15.2 cents per thousand gallons, and Sunnical Packing Company used 5,643,708 gallons for \$857.55, or at the rate of 15.2 cents per thousand gallons.

Such discrimination as is indicated in the foregoing examples should by all means be removed.

Applicant's Exhibit No. 2, which was introduced at the hearing, shows that based upon the same use of water as prevailed in 1919, the adoption of the proposed rates will result in slightly less revenue than was received from the application of the present discriminatory rates in that year.

In order that any possible discrimination may be avoided in the future, applicant herein should immediately place meters upon the services of Southern Pacific Company, Western Pacific Railway Company and Natomas Rock Crushing Company.

O R D E R

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY having made application to the Railroad Commission as entitled above, a public hearing having been

held and the Commission being fully informed in the matter.

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT that certain deviations from regularly established rates now charged certain consumers for service of water by Pacific Gas and Electric Company in and in the vicinity of Oroville, California, result in unjust discrimination,

And basing its order upon the foregoing finding of fact and upon the statements of fact contained in the preceding opinion,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Pacific Gas and Electric Company be and it is hereby authorized and directed to eliminate such existing deviations from its schedule of measured rates and establish the following schedule of metered rates to supersede the rates charged those of its consumers now receiving service at discriminatory rates:

METERED RATE SCHEDULE

From 0 to 20,000 gallons.....	\$ 0.24 per M.Gale.
From 20,000 to 50,000 gallons.....	0.15 " " "
All over 50,000 gallons.....	0.10 " " "

MONTHLY MINIMUM CHARGES

\$1.00 per month per meter for all meters up to and including one inch in size. For all meters over one inch in size, the minimum rate shall be 50 cents per month for each half inch in size.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Pacific Gas & Electric Company shall file the foregoing schedule of metered rates with the Railroad Commission within twenty (20) days of the date of this order, said schedule to be effective for all meter readings subsequent to July 1, 1920.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 24th day of June, 1920.

H. S. Loveland
Frank R. DeWitt
Irving Matton