

ORIGINAL

MCS

Decision No. 8041

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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In the Matter of the Commission's)
 investigation on its Own Motion)
 into the Rules, Regulations and :
 Practices of Annie Dell Segno with :
 relation to the operation of a)
 public utility water system, doing :
 business under the fictitious name : Case No. 1459
 and style of Ocean Park Heights)
 Land and Water Company, the service)
 rendered by said company, the sup- :
 ply of water available and the :
 territory served or to be served.)

Herbert E. Carse for Annie Dell Segno.

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N

This is a matter involving numerous informal complaints which have been filed with the Commission in regard to conditions which prevail under the public utility water system owned by Annie Dell Segno and doing business under the fictitious name and style of Ocean Park Heights Land and Water Company, by which name it is sometimes hereinafter referred to. The utility in question distributes water for domestic purposes in and in the vicinity of Ocean Park Heights, Los Angeles County, California.

It appearing to the Commission that the relief sought by complainants could not be obtained through informal proceedings, a formal investigation was instituted as above indicated, and a public hearing was held before Examiner Satterwhite in Los Angeles on July 1, 1920.

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The source of water supply of this utility is a single well located in the bottom lands adjacent to Ocean Park Heights. The water is raised from this well by air lift equipment into a small settling reservoir. From the settling reservoir a booster pump is used to force the water into the distributing system, the excess being accumulated in a concrete storage reservoir situated at the highest point of the district served.

Due to the difference in capacity of the two pumps, the force or booster pump is operated only about two-thirds as many hours as the air lift, which latter appears to be operated only a little over twelve hours per day. Testimony showed the maximum run of the air lift during June, 1919, was $13\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day and the minimum was $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day. It was brought out at the hearing, however, that the well could be operated 24 hours per day, if necessary, and it was estimated by Engineer Carse, representing the owner of this system, that the plant as now constituted has a capacity of three times the present demand. Mr. Carse, however, agrees with the opinion of the Commission's engineers, that an auxiliary supply should be available to provide against accidents such as that which occurred in September, 1919, when the present well caved in and consumers were deprived of any service whatsoever for several days. It is our opinion that adequate service cannot be insured when the water supply is wholly dependent upon a single well such as this which has so recently demonstrated that it may, without warning, cease to produce.

From the field investigations of this system which have been made by the Commission's Hydraulic Engineers it appears that the principal causes for many of the complaints which have heretofore been made are inefficiencies and mismanagement in operation. While it appears that an auxiliary source of water supply should be

acquired to provide for emergencies, yet the present plant and equipment are not operated a sufficient number of hours per day to provide an adequate supply of water at all times for the consumers.

From the evidence it appears that the owner of this utility has not been kept sufficiently well informed as to operating conditions or the practices of the employees of this system. This phase of the situation has resulted in much dissatisfaction, and it is clear that more efficient operating conditions should prevail. However, a disposition was shown on the part of the company to correct these conditions, and the Commission will make certain requirements in its order herein, designed to bring about the desired results.

At the hearing it developed that a certain tract known as Culver Garden Tract, consisting of 198 lots, was piped by its promoters and connections made to this water system. This was apparently done without the knowledge of the owner of the utility, and certainly without any provision having been made for an increased water production or alteration of plant operation. Under the present circumstances, it is clear that such a program could not be carried out except to the detriment of the original consumers, unless an additional source of water supply is obtained and an efficient operating program is inaugurated. Respondent signified her willingness to install additional water production facilities, if necessary, to serve these additional consumers, and it therefore appears advisable to permit the continuance of this service with the proviso that adequate service be rendered to all consumers and that none will be adversely affected because of this service to additional territory.

The rules and regulations now in effect are not in accord with the practices of this Commission and should be modified

to conform therewith. This Commission has usually required that utilities extend mains 100 feet for each permanent new consumer. If the extension necessary to serve a prospective consumer is longer than 100 feet, the consumer may be required to deposit the cost of the extension over and above 100 feet, the deposit to be returned to the consumer when the revenue derived from the extension warrants.

O R D E R

The Railroad Commission having instituted an investigation on its own motion into the rules, regulations and service of Annie Dell Segno with relation to the operation of a public utility water system known as Ocean Park Heights Land and Water Company, a public hearing having been held and the Commission being fully informed in the matter,

It is Hereby Found as a Fact, that the present operating conditions and practices which prevail under this system are unsatisfactory and inefficient and should be corrected, and

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

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Annie Dell Segno, operating a public utility water system under the fictitious name and style of Ocean Park Heights Land and Water Company be, and she is hereby directed to so operate or cause the plant and system of said company to be so operated, that all consumers may at all times be provided with an adequate supply of water, and in addition thereto, a reserve supply sufficient to care for the fluctuations in use and for emergencies shall be held in storage at all times, in the upper reservoir.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Annie Dell Segna be, and she is hereby required to adopt a system of operation which will require the filing of such reports by the employes of said Ocean Park Heights Land and Water Company as will at all times enable the management of said utility to be fully informed as to all conditions and practices existing on said system.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that until further notice the utility shall render to this COMMISSION, on the first day of each month, a report showing the amount of water in storage in its upper reservoir each day of the preceding month, indicating the hour at which such measurement is taken.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that said utility shall, within sixty (60) days of the date of this order, submit to the Railroad Commission for its approval, detailed plans for securing an auxiliary source of water supply, and thereafter, upon final approval of said plans, shall proceed in accordance therewith to install the necessary equipment and facilities to make available the additional water supply.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that within thirty (30) days of the date of this order, this utility shall submit to the Commission a full and complete schedule of rules and regulations which it proposes to adopt, said rules and regulations to be put into effect on the date of their acceptance, as corrected and amended by the Commission.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 27th day of August, 1920.

Edwin O. Edgerton
H. D. ...
Walter R. ...
H. K. ...

Commissioners.