

Decision No. 8158

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application )  
of GREENVILLE WATER WORKS for an ) Application No. 5068.  
order fixing rates. )

A. R. Bidwell for Applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N

Applicant herein is a public utility water system operating under the fictitious name and style of Greenville Water Works. This system is owned by the estate of one Clara Bidwell, deceased, and is now being operated under the management of A. R. Bidwell. Through this system water is delivered to consumers in the town of Greenville, Plumas County. In this matter applicant requests the Commission to adjust its present rates and fix a schedule which is adequate to meet present operating conditions.

A public hearing was held at Greenville before Examiner Westover, at which all interested parties were given an opportunity to be heard. No protests were made against the proposed fixing of new rates, and the evidence shows that the system, generally, has been rendering good service. The system supplies about 60 consumers, and in 1919 had a total revenue of \$1,681.50, all consumers having been supplied at flat rates.

A field investigation was made and an appraisal of the properties of applicant was submitted by C. E. Monett, one of the Railroad Commission's hydraulic engineers. The engineer's report shows an estimated original cost of the system of \$8,751, to which should be added \$500, the amount originally paid for certain springs which partially supply this system. The replacement fund or annuity which should be allowed to cover depreciation, computed on the sinking fund basis, is \$134.53.

The annual report of Greenville Water Works for the year 1919 shows maintenance and operation expenditures in the amount of \$1,681.50, the same amount having been received for the sale of water. The utility has kept no records of its accounts, and therefore the details of expenditures are not available. It would appear however from the data available and from a study of similar systems of this size, that \$1000 is an ample amount to cover this item, and therefore that figure will be used for the purposes of this proceeding.

Annual charges based upon the foregoing figures amount to \$1,875. As the revenue for 1919 was \$1,681.50, it is apparent that the utility is entitled to an increase in rates.

The evidence shows that there is an excessive use of water in the community supplied by this utility, and it is apparent that this condition can be best corrected by metering the system. The applicant however objects to the installation of meters on the grounds of high cost by reason of the necessary protection to prevent freezing of meters in the winter season.

Attention is directed to the fact that it is impossible to establish a schedule of flat rates whereby the burden of maintaining a water system of this character is equitably distributed among the various consumers in proportion to their use of water.

The benefit to be derived from a metering of the system is not only an equitable distribution of the charges but is also a means whereby the water can be conserved and an adequate supply furnished to consumers.

In order that the system may be operated more efficiently it is recommended that applicant proceed with some systematic program of metering its entire system. It is also recommended that applicant keep accurate account of revenues and expenditures in accordance with the uniform classification of accounts prescribed by the Railroad Commission.

#### O R D E R

GREENVILLE WATER WORKS having made application to the Railroad Commission as entitled above, a public hearing having been held with relation thereto, and the Commission being fully informed in the matter,

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT that the rates now charged by Greenville Water Works for water supplied to consumers are unjust and unreasonable in so far as they differ from the rates herein established, and that the rates herein established are just and reasonable rates to be charged for such service;

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

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Greenville Water Works be and it is hereby authorized and directed to file with the Railroad Commission within twenty (20) days of the date of this order, and thereafter charge the following rates for water supplied to its consumers:

FLAT RATE USE

To apply to all users on separate premises in whatever ownership.

Monthly Flat Rates:

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|--|--------|
| 1. Residences, boarding houses and lodging houses of five rooms or less, . . . . .   | \$1.40 |
| For each additional room, . . . . .  | 0.25   |
| Additional for each bathtub, . . . . .   | 0.30   |
| "    "    "    toilet, . . . . .   | 0.30   |
| For each private garage and one automobile, . . . . .  | 0.25   |
| "    "    additional automobile, . . . . .   | 0.25   |
| For each private barn, not more than two horses or cows, . . . . .   | 0.50   |
| For each additional horse or cow, . . . . .  | 0.20   |
| Sprinkling or irrigation of lawns, shrubbery, trees, gardens, etc., per 100 square feet, . . . . .   | 0.10   |
| 2. Blacksmith shops, machine shops, lumber yards, bakeries, undertaking parlors, grocery stores, dental offices, warehouses, butcher shops and large stores, . . . . . | 3.00   |
| 3. Drug stores and photograph galleries, . . . . .   | 3.50   |
| 4. Creameries, slaughterhouses and laundries, . . . . .  | 5.00   |
| 5. Banks, professional offices, billiard parlors, fraternal halls, clubrooms, churches, or stores not otherwise listed, . . . . .                                      | 1.50   |
| 6. Office buildings, for each room, . . . . .  | 0.50   |
| 7. Restaurants, per unit of seating capacity, . . . . .  | 0.15   |
| 8. Livery stables or feed yards, per average number of stock fed, . . . . .  | 0.25   |
| 9. Barns in connection with stores, shops, etc., not more than 2 horses, . . . . .   | 0.50   |
| For each additional horse, . . . . .   | 0.25   |
| 10. Public garages, 6 autos or less, . . . . .   | 3.00   |
| For each additional auto, . . . . .  | 0.50   |

11.	Soda fountains and ice cream parlors, either alone or in connection with other business, . . . . .	\$2.50
12.	Barber shops, per chair, . . . . .	1.00
	Additional for each bathtub, . . . . .	1.00
	" " " toilet, . . . . .	0.50
13.	Soft drink parlors, . . . . .	3.00
	Additional for each toilet, . . . . .	0.50
	" " " urinal, . . . . .	0.30
14.	Hotels:	
	Dining room, . . . . .	3.00
	Bedrooms with running water, . . . . .	0.25
	Each bathtub, . . . . .	0.50
	" toilet, . . . . .	0.30
	" urinal, . . . . .	0.30
15.	Building work:	
	For mixing mortar and to dampen bricks, per 1000 bricks, . . . . .	0.35
	For cement work, each barrel, . . . . .	0.15
16.	Water motors, . . . . .	1.50
17.	Public schools, . . . . .	3.00
18.	Street sprinkling when permitted, . . . . .	2.50

METERED USE

Minimum Monthly Payments:

5/8 inch meters, . . . . .	\$1.00
3/4 " " . . . . .	1.25
1 " " . . . . .	1.75
1 1/2 " " . . . . .	2.50
2 " " . . . . .	3.00
3 " " and larger, . . . . .	5.00

Monthly Meter Rates:

From 0 to 500 cubic feet, per 100 cubic ft.	\$0.25
From 500 to 1000 " " " " " "	0.20
Over 1000 cubic feet, " " " "	0.15

Meters may be installed by the utility at its own expense upon any service and the consumer billed at meter rates upon 30 days' written notice.

Meters will be installed at the request of any consumer upon the deposit with the utility of the estimated cost of such installation, and water supplied with thereafter be charged for at meter rates; such deposits to be returned to consumers at the monthly rate of one fourth the bills for water used through the meter.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Greenville Water Works

be and it is hereby directed to file with the Railroad Commission within thirty (30) days of the date of this order, a schedule of proposed Rules and Regulations governing the distribution and sale of water to its consumers, said schedule to be subject to correction or amendment by the Commission, and as finally approved said Rules and Regulations shall, within ten (10) days of their approval, be placed on file with the Commission and become effective.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1920.

Edwin O. Edgerton  
H. D. Loggins  
Frank W. Miller  
H. B. Boudreau

Commissioners.