

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the matter of the application :  
of Williams Water and Electric :  
Company for permission to establish : Application No. 525.  
a rate for metered water service. :

C. K. Sweet for applicant.

THELLEN, Commissioner.

O P I N I O N.

This is an application for authority to establish a rate for metered water service. No such rate has hitherto been established.

Applicant serves water for domestic purposes only, including household uses and the sprinkling of lawns, streets and roads, to the inhabitants of the unincorporated town of Williams, in Colusa County. Applicant secures its water by pumping from a well and has about 98 customers.

The rates of applicant on file with this Commission are for flat rate service only. Applicant claims that some of its customers are using more water than is necessary and that the cost of pumping has been materially increased as the result of this excessive use. Applicant accordingly has been installing meters for customers who irrigate lawns and gardens. Twenty-two meters have been installed and applicant desires gradually to install some thirty more, as funds become available. Offices and stores will not be metered for the present, as very little water is being wasted by them.

Authority is now asked to put into effect a rate in addition to the existing flat rates, namely a rate for metered service of \$1.00 per month minimum to cover the first 1000 gallons or fraction thereof, with 10¢ for each additional 1000 gallons or fraction thereof.

The evidence shows that most of the present flat rate customers using water for irrigating lawns and gardens will not have their bills increased, even under their present consumption. A few consumers will have their bills raised, but it is only just that persons using a large amount of water should pay more than those using only a small amount. Applicant installs all meters and service connections at its own expense.

Applicant claims an original cost of its system of \$7938.86, with a gross revenue for 1912 of \$1444.78 and an operating expense of \$950.05. This sum does not include interest on investment, nor is any allowance for depreciation included therein, though the depreciation on a portion at least of the pipe is unusually large. The plant has been installed between three and four years. Its present value is undoubtedly less than the original cost, but it becomes unnecessary in this inquiry to pursue this subject further. No dividends have ever been paid.

I am convinced from the evidence that applicant's request is reasonable. While notice of the hearing was mailed to every consumer, no one appeared in opposition to the application. The proposed rate should be tried out. If any injustice or discrimination results therefrom, the matter may hereafter be brought to the attention of the Commission. I recommend that the application be granted and submit herewith the following form of order.

O R D E R

Williams Water and Electric Company having applied for authority to establish an additional rate for water supplied to persons residing in Williams, California, namely, a rate of \$1.00 minimum for the first 1000 gallons or fraction thereof, and 10¢ for each additional 1000 gallons or fraction thereof, under meter, and notice of hearing having been given to each customer of applicant and a public hearing having been held on said application at Williams,

