

Decision No. 9726

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

J. S. Hommes, J. A. Lunday, Maude
M. Swisshelm, A. W. Horton, Frank
Poeschell, A. A. Rogers, E. Daborkey,
G. A. Rogers, R. S. Marshall, Alva
Crossman, W. Foster, Chas. E. Henderson,
Mrs. Jerry Thatcher, W. S. Anderson,
T. Camp, R. A. Williams, Jerry Thatcher,
Joseph Hazelton, C. W. Swisshelm,
J. E. Moore, H. E. Hawn, F. Drescher,
M. E. Crookham and C. E. Moore,
Complainants,

ORIGINAL

CASE NO. 1612.

vs.

C. C. White Water Company, also known as
White Brothers Water Company,
Defendant.

J. Oscar Goldstein, for complainants
and for the City of Chico.

Clyde Thomas, for defendant.

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N

The complaint in the above entitled matter alleges that the complainants as set out above are all resident consumers of the White Brothers Water Company, a public utility engaged in the business of supplying water to a district generally known as Chapmantown, which is a part of the City of Chico, Butte County; that for the last six months the water supplied consumers has been insufficient and inadequate; that on numerous occasions the water supply has been entirely shut off for periods of several hours of the day, and very frequently there has been insufficient water

to flush toilets; and that the water pressure has been absolutely inadequate. The Commission is therefore requested to investigate the matter and render such decision as it may consider just and reasonable to remedy the conditions complained of.

The answer alleges in effect that the system is capable of supplying water adequately and in reasonable amounts to all present consumers, provided the water is used properly; that many of the users have irrigated lawns with open hoses and faucets, without sprinklers, wholly disregarding the rules regulating the hours for such use, and that as a result of such misuse some consumers have received more water than they were entitled to, while others have received an insufficient supply, and that the defendant water company has been unable to prevent this misuse of water.

A public hearing was held in this matter before Examiner Satterwhite at Chico, of which all interested parties were notified and given an opportunity to be present and heard.

Evidence presented at the hearing showed that there has been inadequate pressure and insufficient water with such frequency that it has become customary and necessary for all consumers to keep on hand buckets, bathtubs and other receptacles filled with water to provide for the periods when there is no water service.

The system is unmetered and the evidence indicated that among certain consumers there is a considerable waste of water, especially in lawn and garden irrigation.

Mr. M. R. MacKall, one of the Commission's hydraulic engineers, made a field investigation of the defendant's water system and the existing service conditions, and testified

that when water was not being pumped directly into the mains, the pressure afforded by the small storage tank was entirely inadequate to properly serve the district, and recommended the installation of meters and of additional storage tanks to supply the necessary pressure and storage.

After a careful consideration of all the facts and conditions it appears advisable that the defendant herein should be required to install such improvements as are necessary to enable it to deliver water at all times in sufficient quantity and at adequate pressure, throughout the entire system.

The formulation of reasonable rules and regulations for lawn and garden use and their strict and rigid enforcement would tend to eliminate a great amount of the present service difficulties.

O R D E R

J. S. Hommes and others having made complaint in the above entitled proceeding, a public hearing having been held therein, and the matter having been submitted,

It Is Hereby Found as a Fact that the water service furnished by the defendant herein has been inadequate and that the pressures maintained have been insufficient.

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 White Brothers Water Company be and it is hereby directed to install on its water system storage facilities so located as to be capable of providing proper and reasonably adequate service at all times throughout the entire system, these improvements to be installed and in operation as soon as conditions will permit, but in no case later than December 31, 1921.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that White Brothers
Water Company be and it is hereby directed to submit to the
Commission for its approval, within twenty (20) days from
the date of this order, detailed plans outlining the proposed
improvements.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 9th
day of November, 1921.

H. B. Boudry

H. J. Leland

Quinn Watson

J. J. Connelley

Commissioners.