

Decision No. 9765

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

City of San Buenaventura, )  
Complainant, )  
vs. )  
Southern California Edison )  
Company, a corporation, )  
Defendant. )

Case No. 1461.

Don C. Bowker, H. F. Orr and  
L. C. Drapeau, for complainant.

Robert M. Clarke and  
D. W. Cunningham, for defendant.

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N

This is a complaint made by the City of San Buenaventura, commonly known as the City of Ventura, against the Southern California Edison Company, which supplies water for domestic and irrigation purposes to consumers in and in the vicinity of the City.

It is alleged that the water furnished by defendants is unfit for use, due to the fact that unfiltered, impure surface water from the Ventura River is allowed to flow into the mains, and that the pipe system has become foul and infested with animal life. It is also alleged that the supply furnished is inadequate because of the use by defendant of a single pipe line of insufficient capacity for the supply of water for both irrigation and domestic use.

Complainant therefore asks that defendant be required to filter all water supplied within the city, or to secure all water from underground sources which are free from contamination; that defendant be restrained from turning any of the surface flow of the Ventura River into its mains; that defendant be required to provide separate pipes, of adequate capacity, for the supply of water for domestic and irrigation purposes, and to install proper facilities for the elimination of objectionable matter from its pipe system.

Defendant's answer to the foregoing complaint alleges that since defendant became the owner of this system in November, 1917, it has made extensive improvements thereto for the purpose of providing an adequate and potable supply of water and that additional improvements are under construction.

Public hearings were held in the above entitled matter, before Examiner Satterwhite at Ventura, at which all interested parties were given an opportunity to be present and be heard. At these hearings five proceedings, Applications Nos. 5104 and 5949, and Cases Nos. 1257, 1455 and 1461 were consolidated and it was stipulated that the testimony introduced in any proceeding might be considered in the others. However, due to the diversity of the matters involved it has been considered advisable to render separate decisions.

It appears from the testimony presented that at the time this complaint was filed, water for domestic and industrial purposes for use in the City of Ventura and for irrigation use along Ventura Avenue was delivered through one main pipe line, and that the water delivered over a considerable area, within the city was discolored and contained sediment, vegetable matter, and some animal life in the form of fish and eels.

After the filing of this complaint and before these hearings were held, defendant completed and put into operation a pumping plant on the Ventura River at Gosnell Hill, which now supplies water for irrigation purpose to approximately 70 per cent of the lands along Ventura Avenue which receive water from defendant's system. The capacity of this plant is seventy-five miner's inches, and its installation and operation will increase the supply of underground water available for use in the city by the quantity of water furnished by it for irrigation along Ventura Avenue.

In June, 1920, defendant put into operation a filtering device through which all water entering the mains has been passed. The device consists of two 30 inch pipes packed with coarse stones, gravel and charcoal. Testimony indicates that the water is made clear by passing through this filter, even at times of high water when the stream is muddy. Defendant has also placed screens over the intake pipe lines at Casitas to prevent the ingress of fish and debris.

During the latter part of 1918 and the first part of 1919 a chlorinating plant was installed at the intake of the water system on the Ventura River, and all surface water taken into the pipe lines is now treated with chlorine and thus rendered safe for domestic use. Samples of the water furnished in the City of Ventura are sent monthly to the State Board of Health for analysis. Results of the analyses thus made, covering one year previous to these hearings, were introduced in evidence and, without exception, indicate that the water is safe for human consumption.

Testimony was introduced by defendant to the effect that a reservoir would be constructed at a high level above the city, and that a booster pumping plant would be installed on the Ventura Avenue main, to be used for increasing pres-

tures, in case of fire and during other periods of abnormal demand. Defendant's closing brief states that the installation of this reservoir and the booster pumping plant has been completed.

It is apparent that defendant has done much to improve the conditions which resulted in inadequate service and an unwholesome water supply. However, further improvements are necessary in order that satisfactory service can be rendered, and the following order will provide for their installation.

### O R D E R

The City of San Buenaventura having made complaint in the above entitled proceeding, public hearings having been held thereon, and the matter having been submitted,

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT that by the installation of improvements to its water system defendant is now able to render such service to its consumers within the City of San Buenaventura as to remedy many of the causes of complaint, but that, in order to furnish an adequate and satisfactory supply, certain other improvements are necessary,

And basing the 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 Southern California Edison Company be, and it is hereby, directed to begin at once, and to proceed diligently to complete, the construction of a pipe line, of adequate size and capacity, from the weir box near Canots to its balancing reservoirs, and to deliver to the reservoirs, through this pipe line, all water destined for use in the City of San Buenaventura, and from these reservoirs directly to the Ventura Avenue pipe line.

AND IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that the intake of the present pipe line leading from the balancing reservoirs to the Ventura Avenue pipe line be covered with a screen to prevent the ingress of debris or other objectionable matter.

AND IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that suitable provision be made for the flushing of mains in the City of San Buenaventura, at low points in the pipe lines and such other points as may be necessary, in order that the mains may be kept clean and free of vegetable or other objectionable matter.

AND IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Southern California Edison Company be, and it is hereby, directed to file with the Railroad Commission of the State of California for its approval, within twenty (20) days from the date of this order, detailed plans and specifications covering the construction of the improvements to its system herein ordered.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1921.

H. B. Powell

H. S. Loveland

James Martin

J. F. Pennington