

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

J. C. Barnard,
Complainant,

vs.

Southern California Edison
Company, a corporation,
Defendant.

Case No. 485.

ORIGINAL

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

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 J. C. Barnard and forty-one other individuals and corporations against Southern California Edison Company, which supplies water to complainants in Ventura Valley, northerly from the City of Ventura, along Ventura Avenue.

It is alleged that defendant furnishes water for irrigation purposes to approximately 260 acres of citrus fruits and at least 540 acres of apricots, walnuts, beans and gardens; that water for use by complainants and other consumers for domestic and irrigation purposes is conveyed through a single pipe line which, together with other facilities used by defendant, is of inadequate capacity to furnish a sufficient quantity of water for efficient and economical irrigation; and that complainants are frequently unable to secure water for domestic use.

The Commission is asked to order defendant to install adequate facilities for the distribution of water to complainants.

The City of Ventura intervened in this case, because of the fact that consumers within the city are supplied through the same pipe line as complainants, and that the city would necessarily be affected by any order made in the matter granting relief to complainants herein, unless the order provided for a general improvement to the system.

Defendant's answer to the foregoing complaint alleges, among other things, that a pumping plant is being installed for the purpose of furnishing better service to irrigators.

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.

After the filing of this complaint and before the hearings were held, defendant had completed and put into operation a pumping plant on the Ventura River at Gosnell Hill, which now supplies water for irrigation use to approximately 70 per cent of the lands along Ventura Avenue which receive water from defendant's system. The Capacity of the plant is 75 miner's inches and its operation was commenced about August 1, 1920. Since that date the ranchers along Ventura Avenue have been furnished with

all the water for irrigation purposes they desired, with the exception of John McFarlane and A. Vinco, who still allege that they are not receiving satisfactory service. It was shown, however, that they were sharing water with their neighbors. It is reasonable to expect that a full head would give them adequate service.

Objection was made to the quality of the water furnished on the grounds that companies drilling for oil along the Ventura River above the pumping plant were discharging salty water into the stream, which, after mixing with the river water, is pumped and delivered to the lands of consumers and leaves a white deposit on the ground irrigated. The law affords adequate protection against pollution of the streams, and defendant has pledged itself to see that no further injury to irrigationists results from this cause.

It appears that the recently installed Cosnell Hill pumping plant is not of sufficient capacity to supply all of the ranchers with water simultaneously, and it is recommended that a rotation schedule of deliveries be established by defendant to provide for an equitable distribution of water during periods of peak demand.

It is evident that the steps taken by defendant to increase its water supply have so improved service to the irrigators along Ventura Avenue that the causes for complaint have been eliminated.

O R D E R

J. C. Barnard and others, having made complaint in the above entitled proceeding, a public hearing having been held thereon, and the matter having been submitted,

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT that the complaint herein has been satisfied.

And basing the 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 the complaint in the above entitled matter be, and it is hereby dismissed without prejudice.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17th
day of November, 1921.

H. B. Gundersen

H. D. Woodland

Dwight Mattson

J. P. Pennington
Commissioners.