

Decision No. 9887

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
the WINDSOR WATER WORKS for an order) Application No. 7078
authorizing a discontinuance of ser-)
vice.)

L. E. Fulwider, for Applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

The application in the above-entitled matter alleges that the annual gross income received from the operation of the water system does not exceed the sum of three hundred dollars, which amount is inadequate to properly remunerate applicant for the service rendered and that the number of consumers served is decreasing. The Commission is therefore asked to authorize applicant to discontinue water service.

A public hearing was held at Windsor, before Examiner Satterwhite, at which all interested parties were given an opportunity to be present and be heard.

The Windsor Waterworks is owned and operated by J. F. Philpott and supplies water to consumers in the town of Windsor, Sonoma County. The water is obtained from a well from which it is pumped into an eight thousand gallon storage tank and distributed by gravity through approximately thirty-six hundred feet of wrought iron pipe ranging from two and one-half to three-quarters of an inch in diameter. The number of consumers on January 1, 1920, was 15, and on August 1, 1921, 22 were being served.

This system was originally installed by J. S. Philpott, a brother of the applicant, in 1887, and was enlarged and extended in 1900. In 1908 it was sold to applicant for \$650.00.

There is no other water system serving this community and those who do not take water from applicant obtain their supply from wells on their own premises. The evidence shows that the capacity of the well is not greatly in excess of ten thousand gallons per day, which necessarily limits the number of consumers who can be adequately served unless an additional source of supply is developed.

It would be manifestly unfair to permit the applicant to discontinue water service to the present consumers, leaving them with no means of obtaining water other than by drilling or digging their own wells.

The evidence shows that the water supply could be conserved and pumping costs correspondingly reduced by the installation of meters and by the proper enforcement of reasonable rules limiting and regulating the hours for lawn and garden irrigation. It was further shown that the system is not at present earning a fair return. It therefore appears that the proper remedy lies in an application for authority to increase rates, rather than for an abandonment of service.

ORDER

WINDSOR WATER WORKS having made application for authority to discontinue public utility water service, a public hearing having been held thereon and the matter having been submitted:

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT that public convenience and necessity require the continuance of the operation of this water system, and basing the order on the foregoing finding of fact and on the statements of fact contained in the opinion which precedes this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the application be, and it
is hereby denied.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 20th day of
December, 1921.

H. A. Brundage

A. D. Brundage

James Martin

Chas. H. Brown

Commissioners.