

Decision No. 9961.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application)
of WOODLAKE WATER COMPANY for per-)
mission to increase water rates.)

Application No. 7053.

Farnsworth, McClure & Burke, by
H. B. McClure, for applicant.
J. G. Ropes, W. S. Bean, and E. I. Towt,
a committee representing consumers.

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N

Woodlake Water Company, a corporation engaged in supplying water for domestic purposes in the unincorporated town of Woodlake, Tulare County, makes application for permission to increase its rates, alleging that the present flat rate charges of \$1.00 per month do not provide compensatory returns for the service rendered.

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

The townsite of Woodlake was laid out and a water system constructed in 1910. In 1919 the ownership of the remaining lots in the townsite and the water system passed to the Red Mountain Fruit Company, the name being changed to Woodlake Water Company in 1920.

The water system consists of a ten inch well 75 feet deep.

two 3-inch centrifugal pumps, two ten-horse power electric motors, a 22,000 gallon steel storage tank, and 14,457 feet of 4 and 6-inch diameter riveted steel distribution pipes. About 66 consumers are supplied at the present time.

Mr. John Spencer, one of the Commission's hydraulic engineers, presented a report of an investigation of the system, setting forth an estimated original cost of \$9,795, a depreciation annuity of \$208, and an estimated reasonable maintenance and operating expense of \$1,105 per annum.

Applicant claimed that the expenditures for maintenance and operating expenses for the first eleven months of 1921 were \$1,117. It was shown, however, that this amount included the costs of some replacements and other items which should have been charged to capital. The installation of automatic control devices on the pumps will reduce power bills to some extent and such installation is recommended.

Annual charges based upon the report of Mr. Spencer are as follows:

Return at 8% upon \$9,795.....	\$ 783
Depreciation annuity.....	208
Maintenance and Operating Expense... ..	1,105
Total.....	<u>\$2,096</u>

Complete records of revenue have not been kept by the applicant but it is estimated that \$696 per year would be received at the present rates if all collections were made.

In spite of the fact that applicant does not at this time ask for any appreciable return upon the investment, it is apparent that an increase in rates is justified, and the rate schedule set out in the accompanying order is designed to do substantial justice to both the utility and the consumers.

Some complaint by consumers was presented at the hearing that water was sometimes shut off from the entire town while re-

pairs were being made to the pipe lines. This condition could be avoided in a large measure by the installation of gate valves upon the lateral pipe lines. This improvement should be made without delay.

O R D E R

Woodlake Water Company having made application for permission to increase rates, a public hearing having been held thereon, and the matter having been submitted,

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT that the rates now charged by Woodlake Water Company for water delivered to its consumers in Woodlake, Tulare County, are unjust and unreasonable in so far as they differ from the rates herein established, and that the rates herein established are just and reasonable rates for such service.

And basing the order upon the foregoing finding of fact and upon the statements of fact contained in the preceding opinion,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Woodlake Water Company be and it is hereby authorized and directed to file with this Commission within twenty (20) days from the date of this order, the following schedule of rates, to be charged for all service rendered subsequent to January 31, 1922:

MONTHLY FLAT RATES

1. Residences, boarding houses, flats, lodging houses, apartments, of five rooms and less.....	\$1.25
For each additional room.....	.15
Additional for each bathtub.....	.25
Additional for each toilet.....	.25
Additional for each private barn or garage with one head of stock or one automobile.....	.25
Additional for each head of stock or automobile over one...	.20
2. Sprinkling or irrigation of lawns, gardens, shrubbery, etc., when taken continuously, per 100 square feet.....	.035
Sprinkling or irrigation of lawns, gardens, shrubbery, etc., when not taken continuously, per 100 square feet....	.07

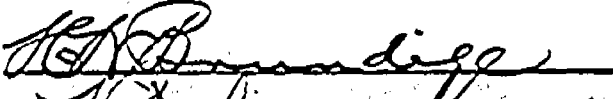
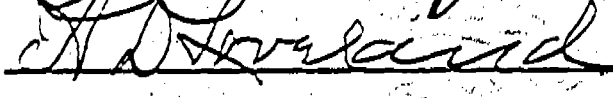


3. Blacksmith shops, bakeries, bank offices, club rooms, grocery stores, lumber yards, machine shops, printing offices, meat markets, theatres, warehouses, drygood stores, fraternal halls, professional offices, stores and offices not otherwise listed.....\$1.50
4. Ice cream parlors, soft drink establishments, drug stores, billiard parlors, (either alone or in connection with other business)..... 2.00
5. Restaurants, lunch counters, per unit of seating capacity..... .10
6. Barbershop, per chair..... 1.00
Additional for each bathtub..... 1.00
7. Laundries, according to use,.....\$2.00 to 5.00
8. Hotel, dining room..... 2.00
Additional for each bedroom..... .10
9. Public garages, 5 autos or less,..... 2.00
10. Stables and feed yard, per average number of stock fed, each,..... .25
11. Additional for each bathtub, toilet or urinal in 3 to 10, inclusive,..... .25
12. Minimum monthly charge for each service connection,..... 1.50

METER RATES

Minimum monthly charge,.....	\$1.25
First 1,000 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet,.....	.25
Over 1,000 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet,.....	.20

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Woodlake Water Company be and it is hereby directed to file with the Railroad Commission, within thirty (30) days from the date of this order, rules and regulations governing its relations with the consumers, said rules and regulations to become effective upon their acceptance for filing by the Commission.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 4th day of January, 1922.





 Commissioners