

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 26336

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application
of James M. Eva and Florence V.
Eva for an order authorizing a
change of rate and a uniform flat
rate for water service.

Application No. 18701.

Mrs. James M. Eva, for applicants.

Mrs. Coe, in propria persona,
protestant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

James M. and Florence V. Eva, who own and operate a public utility water system at Summer Home Park located near the Town of Hilton, Sonoma County, have applied to the Commission for a modification of their present rate schedule.

In this proceeding applicants state that they do not desire or request an increase in rates but ask for a revision of their present schedule which will eliminate the charge of twelve dollars (\$12.00) which permits five (5) consecutive months' service during each calendar year. It is alleged that few, if any, of the consumers limit their demand to this period of time with the result that the billing and collecting for service during the remainder of the year has resulted in continual disputes and altercations with the consumers.

A public hearing was held in this proceeding before Examiner Handford at Summer Home Park.

This waterworks supplies approximately 102 consumers residing in a summer resort and vacation community along the shores of the Russian River. The homes and premises are occupied at various times throughout the entire year by practically all consumers, resulting in a continuous demand for water service at all times.

The present schedule of rates is as follows:

FLAT RATES

1. Minimum annual charge, payable in advance, which entitles consumer to water service for domestic purposes for five consecutive months-----\$ 12.00
For each additional month of the calendar year over five, that water is used----- 1.00
2. Flat rates for service for the entire calendar year, payable in advance, which entitles consumer to water service for domestic purposes----- 15.00
3. For the hotel property: Flat rate, payable in advance for water service during the entire calendar year----- 150.00

METERED RATES

1. Minimum annual charge, payable in advance, which entitles consumer to 400 cubic feet of water per month for five consecutive months-----\$ 12.00
For each additional month of the calendar year over five, that water is used, for 400 cubic feet or less per month----- 1.00
For all use of water in excess of the minimum quantity:
From 400 2000 cubic feet per month, per 100 cu.ft. 0.25
All use over 2000 cubic feet per month, per 100 cu.ft. 0.15
2. Minimum annual charge for 12 months' service, payable in advance, which entitles consumer to 400 cubic feet of water per month----- 15.00
For use from 400 to 2000 cubic feet per month, per 100 cubic feet----- 0.25
All use over 2000 cubic feet, per month, per 100 cubic feet----- 0.15

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The testimony presented in behalf of applicant is to the

effect that, while only one or two consumers in the past few years have limited their use of water to the allowance provided under the five months' classification, yet many users have applied under this rate necessitating additional billing for the service rendered during the other months of the year. It is alleged that the character of the natural features of the community is such that it is impossible and impracticable for the operators of the utility to determine correctly periods of occupancy of premises and that past attempts so to do have invariably resulted in disputes and altercations with the owners, tenants and occupants of the homes. Applicants propose that, in lieu of the present twelve-dollar rate, there be substituted the present annual charge of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for both flat and metered use, such payment to cover the entire calendar year.

While nominally the proposed rates are higher than those at present in effect, the evidence shows that under the full yearly charge many of the consumers will receive water service at a reduction over their present water bills. It is also of record that the company's annual charges for operation and depreciation nearly equal the present annual revenues. The effect of the proposed schedule on the utility's gross revenues is difficult to predict. It is possible that the earnings may be slightly reduced by the elimination of the classification providing for service for a period of five months but, undoubtedly, there will result a decided gain in the utility's public relations by the removal of the cause of constant irritation which emanates from the efforts to collect for water supplied during the period outside of the five months allotted under the present rates. The schedule of rates set forth in the following Order embodies the desired changes.

O R D E R

James M. and Florence V. Eva having made application to the Commission for authority to revise the rates on their public

utility water system supplying Summer Home Park, Sonoma County, a public hearing having been held thereon, the matter having been submitted and the Commission being now fully advised in the premises,

It is hereby found as a fact that the rates now charged by James M. and Florence V. Eva for water delivered to their consumers, in so far as they differ from the rates herein established, are unjust and unreasonable and the rates herein established are just and reasonable rates to be charged for the service rendered, and,

Basing this Order upon the foregoing finding of fact and upon the further statements of fact contained in the Opinion which precedes this Order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that James M. and Florence V. Eva be and they are hereby directed to file with this Commission within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order the following schedule of rates to be charged for all water delivered to consumers on and after the first day of January, 1934.

FLAT RATES

1. Annual charge due and payable in advance on January first of each year, entitling consumer to water service the entire calendar year-----\$15.00

METERED RATES

1. Minimum annual charge due and payable in advance on January first of each year, entitling consumer to 400 cubic feet of water for each month of the calendar year-----\$15.00
2. Water used over 400 cubic feet per month to be charged as follows:

From 400 to 2,000 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet-----	0.25
All over 2,000 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet-----	0.15

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For all other purposes, the effective date of this Order shall be twenty (20) days from and after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 18th day of September, 1933.

C. C. Leary
Leon Whitell
H. J. Lee
M. B. Garrison
Commissioners.