

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 27192

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
MONTEREY COUNTY WATER COMPANY, a
corporation, for permission to aban-
don an irrigation canal.

Application No. 19298.

Morrison, Hohfeld, Foerster,
Shuman & Clark, by C.F. Lacey,
for applicant.

Walter E. Norris, for certain
consumers.

Russell T. Robinson, for
Margaret A. Jacks.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

This is an application filed by Monterey County Water Company, a corporation, asking permission to abandon agricultural irrigation service heretofore rendered by it in the County of Monterey near the City of Soledad.

A public hearing in this matter was held before Examiner MacKall in Soledad.

This company was organized in 1901 to supply water principally for the irrigation of sugar beets in the general vicinity of Soledad. Water was obtained from the Salinas River, San Lorenzo Creek, and Arroyo Seco River. While at the outset the system embraced some thirty-three miles of canals and at one time supplied water to somewhat in excess of 2,600 acres, the project

was never successful. The water supply was available only in the winter and early spring and when required for irrigation purposes was entirely inadequate. Since 1915, all but nineteen miles of the ditch system known as Canal "C" heading in the Arroyo Seco River has been sold or abandoned through orders previously issued by this Commission. (Decision No. 2746 (September 7, 1915), 8 C.R.C. 51; Decision No. 4410 (June 19, 1917), 13 C.R.C. 391; Decision No. 11157 (October 23, 1922), 22 C.R.C. 449; Decision No. 16119 (March 8, 1926), 27 C.R.C. 712.)

According to the evidence, the book cost of operative properties as of December 31, 1933, was \$28,136. Since 1931, but \$164 have been received by the company in revenues for water sold, all in the year 1932, no water having been sold in either 1931 or 1933.

Practically all water users under this canal system were present at the hearing and all agreed that the continued operation of the canal was no longer feasible economically. Applicant for several years has offered to give or lease the system to the consumers to operate as a mutual water company or otherwise and, although thirty days from date of hearing was given said consumers to act on this proposal, they have failed to accept the offer. All former irrigators now obtain water from their own wells or from other sources. Under such circumstances, this Commission can do nothing further than grant the application as requested.

O R D E R

Application as entitled above having been filed with

this Commission, 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 ORDERED that Monterey County Water Company, a corporation, be and it is hereby authorized and directed to discontinue, within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order, all public utility irrigation service and shall thereafter stand relieved of all liability and obligations to supply water service to its consumers in the general vicinity of Soledad.

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 29 day of July, 1934.

C. J. [Signature]

M. A. [Signature]

M. B. [Signature]

Commissioners.