

Decision No. 27503

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BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of  
B.J. Lewis for permission to operate  
pumping plant and to sell water for  
domestic use.

Application No. 19458

Earl F. Crandell, for applicant.

Edmund F. Barker, for Charles A. Graham.

Victor P. Showers, for O.T. Gilbank,  
Trustee in Bankruptcy in the matter  
of Harry H. Godber, a Bankrupt.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In the above entitled proceeding, B.J. Lewis asks the Railroad Commission for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to distribute and supply water for domestic use to the inhabitants of Tracts Nos. 7806 and 8910, Los Angeles County. It is further requested that the following schedule of rates be established for the service rendered:

That the rate to be charged for water shall  
be in accordance with the following schedule  
of rates:

For the first 400 cubic feet used-----\$2.00  
For each additional 100 cubic feet used-- .50"

A public hearing in this matter was held before Examiner Gorman at Los Angeles.

The testimony shows that B.J. Lewis, applicant herein, on March 2, 1934, purchased from O.T. Gilbank, trustee in bank-

ruptcy of the estate of Harry H. Godber, a water system and appurtenances thereto installed by said Godber to aid in the sale of lots in the above named tracts, consisting of approximately 140 acres of land subdivided into 194 lots. This land is located on the slopes of Topanga Canyon and its branches and has a variation in elevation of approximately 500 feet. Mains have been installed to serve 100 lots. The property transferred is more particularly described in Trustee's quitclaim deed filed as Exhibit No. 1 in this proceeding and which is hereby made a part hereof by reference.

The water supply is obtained from a well 250 feet deep, equipped with a deep well pump which elevates the water into three storage tanks having a total storage capacity of 112,000 gallons, located at different elevations on the tracts. The water is thence distributed by gravity through pipe lines ranging from three-quarters of an inch to two inches in diameter.

The pipe lines were installed in the streets and alleys prior to their dedication to the public use and therefore no county franchise is necessary at this time.

There are thirty families obtaining water from this system who have no other water supply available. The record shows that sufficient water can be developed on the utility's lands to provide service to these tracts when they shall become fully built up.

Applicant testified that the invested capital totalled twenty-three thousand nine hundred twenty-seven dollars (\$23,927) and that there is available only a seven months' record of maintenance and operating expenses. It was estimated that the proposed rates would produce sufficient revenue from the present consumers to equal the operating costs including depreciation.

Owing to the character of the service rendered which re-

quires furnishing water to a comparatively few number of consumers in a steep and hilly territory, the proposed rates necessarily are higher than obtain where service conditions are more favorable. Several consumers testified that they had no objection to the proposed rates and that the service rendered was satisfactory.

No protest was made against the proposed charges or the granting of a certificate to applicant. It appears, therefore, that the requests should be authorized.

O R D E R

B.J. Lewis having made application as entitled above, a public hearing having been held thereon, the matter having been submitted and the Commission being now fully advised in the premises,

The Railroad Commission of the State of California hereby declares that public convenience and necessity require that B.J. Lewis operate a public utility water system in the territory known as Tracts Nos. 7806 and 8910, Topanga Canyon, Los Angeles County.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that B.J. Lewis be and he is hereby authorized and 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 service rendered consumers on said tracts subsequent to the 30<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1934:

METER RATES

Monthly Minimum Charges:

5/8 x 3/4-inch meter-----	\$ 2.00
3/4-inch meter-----	2.50
1-inch meter-----	3.00
2-inch meter-----	5.00
3-inch meter-----	10.00

Each of the foregoing "Monthly Minimum Charges" will entitle the consumer to the quantity of water which that monthly minimum charge will purchase at the following "Monthly Quantity Rates."

Monthly Quantity Rates:

From 0 to 400 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet-----\$.50  
All over 400 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet----- .50

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IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that B.J. Lewis be and he is hereby directed to file with the Railroad Commission, within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order, rules and regulations governing relations with his consumers, said rules and regulations to become effective upon their acceptance for filing by this Commission.

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 27<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1934.

Leroy O. Whitell  
W. A. Lee  
W. S. Harris  
W. H. ...  
Frank ...  
Commissioners.