

Decision No. 27607.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application  
of LOS MOLINOS WATER WORKS for per-  
mission to charge a metered water  
rate.

Application No. 19551.

P. W. Snyder, for Applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

The applicant herein, P. W. Snyder, owner of Los Molinos Water Works, asks permission to charge a metered rate for service to his consumers in the unincorporated town of Los Molinos, in Tehama County.

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

The water works operated by Mr. Snyder supply water for domestic and commercial purposes to fifty-three consumers. The system consists of a ten-inch drilled well, 185 feet deep, a 25,000-gallon redwood storage tank, a deepwell pump and five horsepower motor and approximately 15,000 feet of mains ranging from 2 to 4 inches in diameter. The evidence shows the estimated original cost of the plant to be \$7,681. and the annual depreciation annuity \$87. computed by the 5 per cent sinking fund method. The testimony shows the reasonable operating and maintenance costs to be \$520. per annum and the average revenues \$975. Approximately \$100. is charged to unpaid bills for 1933, largely as a result of general business conditions, and also to a considerable degree to the practice of applicant in billing quarterly.

The present charge is \$1.50 per month, flat rate for all services. While applicant asks for no increase in this flat rate charge, he requests the establishment of a metered schedule by reason of the fact that some of his consumers irrigate large parcels of land containing from a quarter of a block to an entire block at the \$1.50 rate, resulting in a serious shortage of water each year during the hot summer months. This situation has made it impossible to maintain any water in storage during this period and necessitated putting into effect a rule limiting sprinkling to the hours 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. However, as these rules have frequently been ignored, applicant desires the privilege of installing meters. In this connection it should be pointed out that there is available to consumers in Los Molinos, who desire to irrigate large tracts of land, agricultural irrigation service from the Coneland Water Company, which should be used for this purpose rather than to tax the limited facilities of the domestic plant.

Applicant also owns and operates the Los Molinos Inn. No charges have been credited to revenues for household service supplied to this property. The extensive grounds of this hotel are watered from the Coneland Water Company's supply, so that the flat rate charge to the Inn, established in the following order, will embrace only the service to the hotel and buildings, together with general incidental service in connection therewith.

Complaint was made by certain consumers of poor pressures in one section of the distribution system. Should the installation of meters fail to remedy this trouble, applicant will be expected to install the improvements necessary to eliminate this unsatisfactory condition.

The rates contained in the Order following are designed to be just and reasonable and sufficient to allow a reasonable return to the utility. Should applicant desire to continue quarterly billing, he may do so with the understanding that abnormal losses through unpaid accounts shall be credited to revenues receivable.

ORDER

Application having been made to this Commission, as entitled above, a public hearing having been held thereon, the matter having been submitted and the Commission being fully advised in the premises,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that P. W. Snyder, doing business under the fictitious firm name and style of Los Molinos Water Works, be and he is hereby authorized and directed to file, in quadruplicate, with the Railroad Commission, within twenty (20) days from the date of this Order, the following schedule of rates for water delivered to his consumers in the unincorporated Town of Los Molinos, Tehama County, California, said rates to become effective for all service rendered subsequent to the 31st day of December, 1934:

FLAT RATES

For all uses, domestic and business, per month.....	\$1.50
For domestic service to Los Molinos Inn, per month.....	2.50

METER RATES

Minimum Monthly Charges:

For 5/8-inch meter.....	\$1.25
For 3/4-inch meter.....	2.00
For 1-inch meter.....	2.25
For 1 1/2-inch meter.....	3.50
For 2-inch meter.....	5.00

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

Monthly Quantity Rates:

From 0 to 500 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet....	\$.25
From 500 to 1,000 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet....	.20
From 1,000 to 10,000 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet....	.10
Over 10,000 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet....	.08

A meter may be installed on any service at the option of either the consumer or the utility.

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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 22nd day of December, 1934.

Leon C. Kelly

W. A. C.

W. B. Davis

W. H. [unclear]

Frank P. [unclear]  
Commissioners.