

Decision No. 30327

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application
of C. W. Browning, owner of the
Richgrove Water Company, to dis-
continue operation of utility.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 21196.

John Preston King, for Applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding C. W. Browning asks for authority to discontinue public utility water service in the unincorporated town of Richgrove, Tulare County. Applicant alleges he is operating the system at a net loss of Three Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$340.00) per year and is unable financially and physically to continue in the business.

A public hearing in this matter was held before Examiner C. C. Brown in Richgrove.

From the evidence it appears that the townsite of Richgrove was subdivided in 1909 by Richgrove Development Company which installed a well, pumping plant and distributing mains to aid in the sale of real estate. Thereafter, the water system was acquired by applicant C. W. Browning, who has supplied the residents of Richgrove for several years last past. However, the project was never a success and there remain at the present time but four residences, a small hotel, a packing plant and a school. During the past year the local school board drilled a well to supply the

grammar school and the packing plant developed its own water supply from a different source. The loss of revenue from these two consumers amounts to about Two Hundred and Ten Dollars (\$210.00) per year, leaving the total gross earnings from present consumers Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) per year.

The testimony indicates that the cost of operation under present conditions amounts to Five Hundred and Eighty-Two Dollars (\$582.00) per annum, including depreciation. From the evidence it appears that there is no prospect of obtaining additional customers to provide sufficient money to operate this plant even at the bare out-of-pocket cost. The remaining consumers will be able to obtain water service from the packing plant owned by Jasmine Citrus Association which is already connected to the water works owned by Mr. Browning. Under the circumstances it is evident that applicant should be allowed to discontinue service upon giving his consumers a reasonable time in which to arrange with the above Association for water service.

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, now, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that C. W. Browning be and he is hereby authorized to discontinue all public utility water service in the townsite of Richgrove, Tulare County, California, on the 15th day of December, 1937, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Within ten (10) days from and after the date of this Order, C. W. Browning shall

notify each consumer now being supplied with water of his intention to discontinue all public utility water service on the 15th day of December, 1937.

2. On or before the 15th day of December, 1937, C. W. Browning shall notify this Commission in writing that he has complied with the terms and conditions as set forth in Paragraph 1 above.

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 15th day of November, 1937.

M. S. [Signature]
Leon [Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
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Commissioners