

Decision No. 20468

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the application of  
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, a  
corporation, for an order of the  
Railroad Commission of the State of  
California, granting to applicant a  
certificate of public convenience  
and necessity, to exercise the right,  
privilege and franchise granted to  
applicant by Ordinance No. 456 of the  
Board of Supervisors of the County of  
San Mateo, State of California.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 21390

R. W. DuVal, for Applicant.

WAKEFIELD, COMMISSIONER:

O P I N I O N

Pacific Gas and Electric Company requests a certificate of public convenience and necessity under Section 50(b) of the Public Utilities Act authorizing the exercise of the rights and privileges granted to it by Ordinance No. 456 of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, adopted on June 2, 1937, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit "A" to the application. Public hearing was held at San Francisco, California, on September 21, 1937. No one appeared to protest the granting of the application.

It appears from the record that for more than thirty-five (35) years last past, applicant or its predecessors in

interest have been rendering electric service in the County of San Mateo, and have used the public highways therein under and pursuant to the following franchises:

<u>Ordinance Number</u>	<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Expiring</u>	<u>Grantee</u>
142	Oct. 4, 1897	Oct. 4, 1947	Peninsula Lighting Company
143	Oct. 4, 1897	Oct. 4, 1944	San Mateo Electric Light Company
178	Oct. 7, 1901	Oct. 7, 1951	Standard Electric Co. of Calif.
217	Dec. 16, 1907	Dec. 16, 1957	W. J. Martin
232	Feb. 21, 1910	Mar. 8, 1960	Benjamin Cunha
242	May 5, 1911	May 20, 1961	J. J. Gomes
251	Feb. 5, 1912	Feb. 20, 1962	J. J. Gomes
253	Apr. 1, 1912	Apr. 16, 1962	J. J. Gomes
261	Jan. 27, 1913	Feb. 11, 1963	J. J. Gomes
341	Oct. 5, 1925	Nov. 4, 1975	Great Western Power Company.

Applicant now renders electric service in a large portion of the County of San Mateo, but is not rendering such service in the entire county. Service of a like character is now being rendered by the City of Palo Alto in the extreme southern portion of said county.

It is of record that applicant applied to the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo for the franchise granted by Ordinance No. 456 primarily to enable applicant to continue to qualify its first and refunding mortgage bonds as legal investments for savings banks and trust funds in as many states as possible. Applicant has outstanding \$267,153,000.00 of first and refunding mortgage bonds. The most recent issue of such bonds

matures on June 1, 1966. The bonds are now qualified as legal investments for savings banks and trust funds in the State of New York and in some other states. The law of the State of New York, it is said, permits investments by savings banks in bonds of gas and electric corporations provided, among other things, that "such corporation shall have all franchises necessary to operate in territory in which at least seventy-five (75) per centum of its gross income is earned, which franchises shall either be indeterminate permits or agreements with, or subject to the jurisdiction of a public service commission or other duly constituted regulatory body, or shall extend at least five years beyond the maturity of such bonds." The laws of some other states are somewhat similar. The franchise referred to herein is essential to meet such statutory requirements.

Applicant has stipulated that it, its successors or assigns, will never claim before the Railroad Commission or any court or public body any value for said franchise in excess of the actual cost thereof, which is Four hundred sixty-two and 50/100 Dollars (\$462.50) exclusive of the Fifty Dollar (\$50.00) fee for the filing of the present application.

It should be noted that this is an application under Section 50(b) of the Public Utilities Act for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to exercise rights granted by a franchise which covers the entire county. Applicant does not now serve throughout the whole county. The franchise is for an indeterminate period. The Commission cannot foretell future conditions nor make a finding now that public convenience and necessity require the exercise of such franchise in its entirety. However,

the exercise of such rights should be authorized as to territory now served by applicant and as to extensions made in the normal course of business as contemplated by Section 50(a) of the Public Utilities Act.

In this proceeding consideration must also be given to the fact that at the present time, the City of Palo Alto renders like service within the county.

Existing utilities should be protected as to territory now served by them, and also as to extensions made in the normal course of business, and applicant should not be authorized to exercise franchise rights as to such territory or extensions. Should the situation arise in the future where more than one utility desires to enter into the same locality or territory, the Commission reserves the right to adjudicate such dispute upon the facts disclosed in an appropriate proceeding, and to modify the present order or to make such order prescribing the terms and conditions under which service may be rendered as may be warranted by the record in such future proceeding.

#### O R D E R

IT IS FOUND AS A FACT that public convenience and necessity require, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company is hereby granted a certificate to exercise the rights and privileges granted to it by Ordinance No. 456 of the County of San Mateo, as to the territory now being served by it and as to extensions to its existing system made in the normal course of business as contemplated by Section 50(a) of the Public Utilities Act, provided, that as to territory not now served by applicant the

rights and privileges granted by such franchise shall not be exercised to extend its facilities into territory served by the system of the City of Palo Alto existing at the time such extension is contemplated.

This order shall be effective immediately.

The foregoing Opinion and Order are hereby approved and ordered filed as the Opinion and Order of the Railroad Commission of the State of California.

Dated, San Francisco, California, this 3<sup>d</sup> day  
of January, 1936.

William H. Miller  
Leon A. Whittell  
Frank R. Dintm  
Barbara W. Dintm  
W. L. Riley  
Commissioners.