

Decision No. 30742

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
L. R. PRATT, for a certificate of
public convenience and necessity to
operate a domestic water system
near Coachella, California.

Application No. 21550

A. Heber Winder, for applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding Mr. L. R. Pratt asks the Railroad Commission to grant him a certificate of public convenience and necessity to operate a public utility water system in the Benedict and Devore additions situate on Highway 99 and adjoining the unincorporated Town of Coachella in the County of Riverside. At the hearing the application was amended to include a request for authority to continue the rates now being charged and also for the establishment of a rate for water used by air-conditioning apparatus.

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

The Benedict and Devore additions consist of seventy-four lots and were placed on the market in 1928 by the Coachella Highway Development Co., Inc., a corporation. A water system was installed thereon to aid in the sale of lots and thereafter given without cost to applicant herein upon the condition that he drill

his own well and assume the obligation of providing continuous water service throughout the tracts. The water works now consists of a drilled well, pump and pressure tank and 2,610 lineal feet of distribution mains that vary from two to four inches in diameter. At present there are twenty-five consumers receiving water at a flat rate charge of from two dollars (\$2.00) per month upward. The rates are practically the same as the unmeasured schedule in effect on the utility plant supplying the adjoining community of Coachella.

The owner of this water system has no records indicating the total annual maintenance and operating expenses; however, the evidence indicates that the historical cost of the properties as of July 1, 1937, was four thousand two hundred twenty dollars (\$4,220) and that the revenues receivable for a period of twelve consecutive months ending December 31, 1937, would be approximately seven hundred three dollars (\$703).

Applicant has received the necessary permission from the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside to lay mains in, on and/or across public streets, roadways and alleys within the area in which service is requested. No one appeared to protest the granting of this certificate and no other public utility is serving in or is willing to serve in the territory covered by applicant's request for a certificate herein. Under the circumstances the evidence shows that it is to the best interests of the public to grant a certificate of public convenience and necessity as applied for.

Request has been made that a flat rate be established to cover the use by a large number of consumers of so-called "desert coolers" which are devices, usually home-made, containing excelsior

or other similar substances which are dampened by a continuous flow of water and are used for air-conditioning in homes and places of business. These coolers generally use from 1,000 to 3,000 cubic feet of water per month, depending upon the size of the cooler and the pipe lines providing water thereto. To date no charge has been made for this additional service but the very substantial use of water devoted solely for the operation of these coolers has placed a very serious burden upon the costs of pumping water during the five or six months continuous use each summer. The flat rate charge for this type of desert cooler use for air-conditioning is two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per month which appears reasonable under the circumstances. This charge, it is understood, is to be made only during the months air-conditioning devices are in actual use. The schedule of rates set out in the following Order is designed to be fair and reasonable both to the consumer and the utility under existing conditions of operation and compares very favorably with similar charges made by other utilities operating in the general vicinity where the climatic conditions are very warm during the summer months.

O R D E R

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

The Railroad Commission of the State of California hereby declares that public convenience and necessity require that Mr. L. R. Pratt operate a public utility water system in the Benedict and Devore additions and in the immediate vicinity thereof, situate on Highway 99 and adjoining the unincorporated Town of Coachella,

County of Riverside, which tracts are more particularly shown on the map attached to the application herein which is hereby made a part of this Order by reference, and

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a certificate of public convenience and necessity be and it is hereby granted to Mr. L. R. Pratt to operate a public utility water system in the territory as set forth above.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Mr. L. R. Pratt be and he is hereby authorized and directed to file with the Railroad Commission, within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order, the following schedule of rates to be charged on and after the first day of May, 1938, for all water delivered to his consumers in and in the vicinity of Benedict and Devore additions situate on Highway 99 and adjoining the unincorporated Town of Coachella, County of Riverside.

R A T E S

Monthly Flat Rates:

Tenement dwellings, lodging house or residence, 5 rooms or less, one toilet, one bath and water for irrigation not to exceed 3,000 square feet of lawn or garden-----	\$1.75
Each additional room-----	.10
Each additional toilet, bath or urinal-----	.25
Horses or cows, one-----	.25
Each additional horse or cow-----	.15
Small stores and shops-----	2.00
Hotels, base rate-----	2.00
For each additional room having running water or bath----	.25
For all other rooms-----	.10
Hotels with dining room in connection, an additional charge of-----	3.00
Restaurants and eating houses-----	3.00
Business blocks, not exceeding 5 offices, with running water-----	3.00
Each additional office with running water-----	.10
Stores, warehouses, confectionary shops, halls, billiard parlors, etc.-----	2.00
Drug stores and bakeries-----	2.00
Barber shops, not over two chairs-----	2.00
Each additional chair-----	.25
Photograph galleries-----	2.00

Monthly Flat Rates Cont'd.:

Laundries-----	\$4.00 to \$12.00
Public garage-----	2.00
Public garage where cars are washed-----	\$3.00 to 4.00
Steam boilers or gas engines, each per horsepower-----	.10
Soda fountains, in addition to base rate for stores, each	1.00
Water for irrigation of lots at 1¢ per 100 sq. ft. of area.	
Corrals and stockyards, each-----	1.75
Service stations-----	2.00
Packing plants-----	\$2.00 to 8.00
Desert coolers-----	2.50

Monthly Meter Rates:

Minimum of	700 cubic feet, or less-----	\$ 1.75
Next	800 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet-----	.20
Over	1,500 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet-----	.15

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IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Mr. L. R. Pratt file with the Railroad Commission, within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order, rules and regulations governing the service of water to 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 4th day of April, 1938.

Walter M. ...
Leon A. ...
James C. ...
Ralph ...
Paul L. Riley
Commissioners.