

Decision No. 38426

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY, a corporation, for an order authorizing applicant to construct an extension of its system to supply gas service to the community of Orange Cove, California.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 27064

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND ORDER

In this application Southern California Gas Company requests authority to construct the necessary gas main extension to initiate natural gas service in the community of Orange Cove, Fresno County, under conditions not wholly in accord with Applicant's filed gas main extension rule.

In order to serve Orange Cove, Applicant proposes to install approximately 5-1/2 miles of 3-inch transmission main from its existing main at a point near Dinuba northward to Orange Cove. It will also be necessary to install 7 miles of 2-inch and 3-inch distribution mains and the required number of services within Orange Cove.

Applicant has made a field survey to ascertain if a sufficient number of customers were desirous of taking natural gas service to justify the extension in accordance with the utility's filed Rule and Regulation No. 20 - Gas Main Extensions. The survey indicated that 286 customers made firm commitments or signed applications for gas service as of October 25, 1945 and that an additional 156 customers would probably take gas service during the first year following the installation of natural gas service.

While the construction of the proposed facilities would not be entirely warranted by gas service to 286 customers, the additional prospective customers will make the extension justifiable under the conditions of Extension Rule No. 20.

As further evidence of this fact, Applicant has made reference to similar extensions to two communities in Tulare County made in 1938 and 1940. In each instance the actual customers in August 1945 exceed by a considerable number the original estimate of the potential number of customers made at the time the extensions were installed. Thus, it appears reasonable to expect that an extension such as the one proposed in this application to an existing small community will, over a rather short period of time, have sufficient business attached thereto to justify the installation in accordance with the utility's filed rules and regulations.

Applicant further points out that it has the necessary certificates of public convenience and necessity to enable it to operate within the areas involved in this application. Said certificates were granted by this Commission's Decisions Nos. 21368 and 19927.

A map showing the location of the proposed line extension, certain data on the proposed facilities to serve Orange Cove, together with the number of customers, and information regarding similar extensions to other small communities are attached thereto and made a part of the application as Exhibits "A", "B" and "C", respectively.

The Commission having considered the request of Applicant and it being of the opinion that the application should be granted, that a public hearing in the matter is not necessary, and sufficient cause appearing; therefore

IT IS ORDERED that Southern California Gas Company is hereby authorized to construct and install said proposed gas main extension and distribution facilities to serve natural gas to Orange Cove as set forth in Exhibit "A" of the application and as further described therein.

The effective date of this order shall be the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 20th
day of November, 1945.

David Anderson
Justice F. Coe
Frank W. [unclear]
Wm. H. [unclear]
Harold P. [unclear]
Commissioners