Decision No.41386

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application

of

CALIFORNIA WATER & TELEPHONE COMPANY

to issue and sell debentures.

Application No. 29177

Charles Elkus, Jr., for Applicant.

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In this application, California Water & Telephone Company asks permission to issue and sell, at par, for the purposes hereafter stated, \$1,000,000 principal amount of its 20-year 3-3/4% sinking fund debentures due March 1, 1968.

California Water & Telephone Company, hereafter sometimes referred to as Applicant, is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of California. It is engaged in the business of a public utility rendering water service for irrigation, domestic, industrial and public purposes in the Cities of Chula Vista, National City and Coronado and adjoining territory in the County of San Diego; in the Cities of San Marino, San Gabriel, and certain unincorporated territory in Los Angeles County; in the Cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel, and certain unincorporated areas in the County of Monterey. Applicant is also engaged in the business of a public utility

rendering telephone and telegraph service in the Cities of Redlands, Banning, Beaumont, Elsinore, Hemet, Murrietta, Palm
Springs, Perris, San Jacinto, Temecula, Loma Linda, Moreno and
Yucaipa, and in certain unincorporated areas in the Counties of
Riverside and San Bernardino; in the Cities of San Fernando,
Sierra Madre and Monrovia, and in certain unincorporated areas
in the County of Los Angeles. Applicant also serves water for
domestic, irrigation and commercial purposes to Del Monte Properties Company, under private contract in Monterey County.

In reports filed with the Commission, Applicant for the past three years has reported operating and other revenues and operating expenses and fixed charges as follows:

	1945	1946	1947
Water Department			
Gross revenue	\$1,527,413.85	\$1,567,088.60	\$1,674,402.12
Operating expenses (incl.			
dep.:and amort.)"	798,146.22	855,116.83	960,917.45
Not operating revenue	\$\tag{729,267.63}	w 711,971.77	\$ 713,484.67
Telephone Department			
Gross revenue	\$1,261,309.07	\$1,417,040.52	\$1,614,394.23
Operating expenses (incl.	The second secon		
dep. and amort.)*	991,974.03	1,180,377.13	1,493,353.54
Net operating revenue	269,335.04	\$ 236,663.39	121,040.69
Total net operating revenue	998,602-67	3 948,635.16	3 834,525.36
Non-operating revenue less non-			
operating expense	15,227.67	21,839.96	(3,469.80)
Misc. income charges			520.00
Gross income	ψ1,013,830.34	\$ 970,475.12	\$ 830,535.56
Interest on funded debt	\$ 239,850.00	\$ 239,850.00	₩ 263,483.67
Interest-miscellan cous	8,171-68	6,773.72	5,019.78
Interest charged to construc-		in the second	
tion (Cr.)	(21.380.74)		(28,655,09)
Amortization of debt discount	21,212.53	• .	
Trustees fees	642.00		
Total	\$ 248,495,47	3 246 .623 .72	\$ 239,848.36
Cross income less deductions	\$ 765,334.87	\$ 723,851.40	\$ 590,687.20
Provision for federal income tax	9,770-66	221,834,67	147,048.50
Remainder available for	• ***	1. 5. 7. 4.	
dividends and surplus	3 755,564 .2 1	\$ 502,016.73	\$ 443,638.70
*Included above:		10.00	Compared Digital Angel
Depreciation, Water Dept.	\$ 118,387.96	\$ 133,387.96	\$ 133,387.96
Depreciation Telephone Dept.	108,874.38	110,744.34	129,338,22
Amortization, "	47,486.85		January State State of the Stat
Total depreciation and	the state of the state of	, 数型 65-45	
amortization	\$ 274,749.19	\$ 244,132,30	\$ 262,726.18
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Applicant has outstanding \$3,200,000 (128,000 shares) of common stock, and \$3,225,000 of cumulative preferred stock consisting of 107,000 shares of \$1.20 Dividend Series and 22,000 shares of \$1.00 Dividend Series. All shares of Applicant's stock are of the par value of \$25 each. Applicant's bonded indebtedness on December 31, 1947, amounted to \$8,750,000, and consists of the following:

First mortgage	bonds,	3.60% Scries due 1971	\$5,850,000
First mortgage	bonds,	3-1/4% Series due 1971	900,000
First mortgage	bonds,	2-7/8% Series due 1.971	1,000,000
First mortgage	bonds,	3% Series due 1971	1,000,000

Assuming that Applicant issues the \$1,000,000 of debentures covered by this application. its capitalization ratios will be as follows:

Eonds			51.5%
Debentures			5.9%
Preferred stock		,	19.0%
Common stock and	surplus		23.6%

In Exhibit "A", Applicant reports its 1948 construction

costs as follows:	Gross Additions	+ · · · · / · . ·	Net <u>Additions</u>
<u>Mater:</u> Monterey Peninsula Division San Gabriel Valley Division			\$ 987,450
San Diego Bay Division	<u> 202.950</u>	<u> 19,925</u>	91,236 <u>183,025</u>
Total Water Department	\$1,332,693	\$ 70,982	\$1.261.711
Telephone: Routine estimates Miscl. specific outside plant	\$ 424,610	\$216,720	\$ 207,890
construction San Fernando District Monrovia District Redlands District	178,390 54,750	159,900 11,180 2,855	167,210 51,895
Palm Springs District Southern District		2,850 <u>4,355</u>	
Total Telephone Department	\$1,626,655	\$410,360	\$1,216,295
Total Water and Telephone Departments	\$2 <u>,959,348</u>	\$481.342	\$2,478,006

The testimony shows that to carry out its 1948 construction program, Applicant must raise about \$2,120,000 through the issue of securities or from bank loans. It has borrowed on a short-term 22% note \$200,000. Because of market conditions and the decline of its earnings in 1947, Applicant's officers feel that it cannot at this time obtain a satisfactory price for either its common or preferred stock. Its management, therefore, has concluded to raise part of its needed cash through the issue and sale of \$1,000,000 of debentures. It has made arrangements to sell \$750,000 of the debentures at par to Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, and \$250,000 to Bankers Life Insurance Company of Nebraska.

The debentures will be dated March 1, 1948, and mature March 1, 1968. They bear interest at the rate of 3-3/4% per annum, payable semi-annually. The debentures will be issued pursuant to the terms and conditions of the trust indenture filed in this application as Exhibit "5". We find the indenture in sat- . isfactory form. The payment of the debentures will not be secured by a lien on Applicant's properties. As a sinking fund for the purchase and redemption of the debentures, Applicant agrees that it will pay to the trustee on the first day of March, 1951, 1952, and 1953, the sum of \$50,000, and on the first day of March, 1954, the sum of \$60,000, and that it will also pay to the trustee the sum of \$60,000 on the first day of March of each and every year thereafter to and including the first day of March, 1967. In lieu of making cash payments, Applicant may deliver to the trustee uncanceled debentures. Upon giving the notice provided in the trust indenture, Applicant may redeem the debentures at any time prior to maturity, in whole or from time

to time in part, upon payment of the principal of the debentures to be redeemed and interest accrued thereon to the date fixed for the redemption thereof and a premium of 3% of such principal, which premium shall be reduced by 2/10th of 1% on March 1, 1953, and by an additional 2/10th of 1% on each March 1 thereafter to and including March 1, 1967. Thereafter they may be redeemed without the payment of a premium. If any of the debentures are redeemed from the proceeds of the sale of any class of stock of Applicant, the premium shall be equal to one-half of the then applicable premium for the redemption of the debentures otherwise than through the sinking fund. The sinking fund payments heretofore mentioned arc applied to the redemption of debentures without the payment of a premium. If debentures are redeemed through the application of funds in the sinking fund in excess of \$50,000 in principal amount in any one year prior to March 1. 1954, or in excess of \$50,000 in principal amount in any one year commencing March 1, 1954, or thereafter, Applicant must pay a premium equal to one-half of the then applicable premium for debentures redeemed otherwise than through the sinking fund, provided that if debentures in excess of \$100,000 in principal amount shall be redeemed in any one year prior to March 1, 1954, or \$120,000 in principal amount in any one year commencing March 1, 1954, or thereafter, through application of funds in the sinking fund, the premium upon the principal amount of debentures so redeemed in excess of \$100,000 or in excess of \$120,000, as the case may be, shall by the then applicable premium for the redemption of debentures otherwise than through the sinking fund.

In the indenture Applicant agrees that it will not, as long as any of the debentures are outstanding, declare or pay any

dividends (excepting stock dividends) on any share or shares of its common stock or apply any of the funds or assets of the company (excepting the proceeds from the sale of other shares of stock) to the purchase or retirement of any share or shares of common stock in excess of the net income derived by Applicant from the operation of its business after December 31, 1947, plus the sum of \$250,000. It further agrees that it will not incur any current indebtedness other than ordinary accounts payable arising out of the operation of its business, in excess of \$500,000 at any time outstanding and expressed to mature within twelve months from the date of the indebtedness.

Applicant asks permission to use the proceeds from the sale of the \$1,000,000 of depentures for the following purposes:

To pay expenses in connection with the issue and sale of the debentures, about	\$	٤,,000
To pay fee in connection with the sale of debentures		5,000
To pay 1948 construction expenses or pay short-term bank loans incurred for that	•	
purpose about	. 0	87 000

ORDER

The Commission having considered the evidence submitted at the hearing had on this application before Examiner Fankhauser, and it being of the opinion that the money, property or labor to be procured or paid for through the issue of said \$1,000,000 of debentures by California Water & Telephone Company is reasonably required by said company for the purposes herein stated, which

purposes, other than the accrued interest and payment of expenses incident to the issue and sale of the debentures, are not, in whole or in part, reasonably chargeable to operating expenses or to income, and that this application should be granted, as herein provided, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

- l. California Water & Telephone Company may issue and sell, after the effective date hereof and on or before May 31, 1948, at not less than par, \$1,000,000 principal amount of 20-year 3-3/4% sinking fund debentures due March 1, 1968, and use the proceeds for the purposes stated in the foregoing opinion.
 - 2. California Water & Telephone Company may execute, after the effective date hereof and on or before May 31, 1948, a trust indenture in, or substantially in, the same form as the trust indenture on file in this application as Exhibit "5".
 - 3. California Water & Telephone Company shall file with the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California such report, or reports, as are required by the Commission's General Order No. 24-A, which order, insofar as applicable, is made a part of this order.
 - 4. The authority herein granted will become effective when California Water & Telephone Company has paid the fee prescribed by Section 57 of the Public Utilities Act, which fee is one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars.
 - 5. Within thirty (30) days after the issue of said \$1,000,000 of debentures, California Water & Telephone Company

shall file with the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California two (2) copies of the trust indenture executed under the authority herein granted, and a copy of each contract covering the sale of said \$1,000,000 of debentures.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 30 day of March, 1948.

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