Decision No. 45589



BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of HOMER WILLS and DORIS WILLS, husband and wife, for an Order authorizing the sale of all of the assets of the "Wills Water Co.", a public utility water system, to MALLIE OTIS RICHARDS and BERTHA A. RICHARDS, husband and wife,)

Application No. 32266

ORDER

Homer Wills and Doris Wills, husband and wife, doing business as Wills Water Co., and owning and operating a public utility water system supplying certain residents of the unincorporated town of LeGrand, Merced County, ask for authority to sell and transfer the water system, together with certain nonoperative real property, to Mallie Otis Richards and Bertha A. Richards, husband and wife, for the sum of \$9,500 cash, in accordance with the terms of a memorandum agreement attached to the application and marked Exhibit A.

It appears that applicants, Homer Wills and Doris Wills, are unable to make a living from the operations of the water system, and desire to engage in a more profitable business. Applicants, Mallie Otis Richards and Bertha A. Richards, have partially retired from business activities, and desire to acquire the water system as an investment, and to provide an occupation during the period of semiretirement.

Water for this system is obtained from a well by pumping, and is distributed to the consumers through approximately 4,950 feet of pipe lines, varying from 2 to 6 inches in diameter. There are nine fire hydrants connected to the system.

The investment in the water system is not presently available because all of the records of installation costs were recently destroyed in a fire.

Of the \$9,500 being paid for the Wills property, the sum of \$5,800 covers the acquisition of water system, and the balance applies to the real property being acquired.

It appearing that this is not a matter in which a public hearing is necessary, that the proposed transfer will not be adverse to the public interest and that the application should be granted in so far as the operative property is concerned, now, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Homer Wills and Doris Wills, husband and wife, doing business as Wills Water Co., may, on or after the effective date hereof, and on or before July 1, 1951, sell and transfer the herein described public utility property to Mallie Otis Richards and Bertha A. Richards, husband and wife, pursuant to the memorandum agreement attached to the application and marked Exhibit A, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. The rates, rules and regulations of said Wills Water Co. now in effect on said system shall be filed with this Commission within thirty (30) days from the date of transfer by Mallie Otis Richards and Bertha A. Richards, husband and wife, in accordance with procedure prescribed by General Order No. 96. No increases in the rates at present in effect, or changes in rules and regulations, shall be made unless properly authorized by this Commission.
- 2. That on or before the date of actual transfer, Homer Wills and Doris Wills, husband and wife, shall refund all deposits which consumers are entitled to have refunded; and that any unrefunded deposits shall be transferred to and become the obligation for refund of Mallic Otis Richards and Bertha A. Richards, husband and wife.
- 3. If the authority herein granted is exercised, Homer Wills and Doris Wills, husband and wife, shall within thirty (30) days thereafter, notify this Commission in writing of the

date of such completion of the property transfer herein authorized, and of its compliance with the conditions hereof.

4. The action taken herein shall not be construed to be a finding of the value of the property herein authorized to be transferred.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty (20) days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 1714 day of Opril, 1951.

Commissioners