

**ORIGINAL**

Decision No. 45972

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of )  
BIG BEAR PINES WATER COMPANY for an ) Application No. 32239  
order extending its service area. ) (Amended)

Houston A. Snidow, for applicant;  
Elizabeth De Wolf, for herself and  
certain consumers.

O P I N I O N

Big Bear Pines Water Company is a public utility operating in and in the vicinity of the community of Sugar Loaf, located southerly from Baldwin Lake and near Big Bear City in the Big Bear Lake resort area of San Bernardino County. In this application, as amended, June 9, 1951, the company requests authority to extend water service to certain subdivided tracts contiguous and adjacent to its present service area.

A public hearing in this proceeding was held on June 13, 1951, at Sugar Loaf before Examiner M. R. MacKall, at which time the matter was submitted.

Big Bear Pines Water Company was granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity in Decision No. 40730, Application No. 28639, issued September 23, 1947, to supply water in Tract No. 1754, designated Big Bear Pines No. 1, and in Tract No. 1756, designated Big Bear Pines No. 2, located in the Northeast quarter of Section 24, Township 2 North, Range 1 East, S. B. B. & M. The lands adjoining the above service area to the south and west, embracing a large part of the remainder of said Section 24, were subdivided into six tracts some years ago, and originally were supplied with water

through several different mutual water companies. From a variety of causes including the difficulties of maintaining pipe lines during severe winters at the high altitude of over 7,000 feet, lack of adequate water supplies, and other kindred problems, these mutual companies all have collapsed financially and the residents heretofore served, now amounting to 87, until recently have been without water service except as provided by themselves. For the past two years the applicant herein has connected its distribution system to the various mains of the bankrupt mutual systems and, as a matter of accommodation only, has delivered its surplus water to these former mutual water company consumers. By reason of the state of disrepair of many of the mains in the mutual area, this service has not been satisfactory. Applicant has acquired all of the mutual companies' systems and now is expending in excess of \$20,000 in the rehabilitation thereof and in the development of additional water supplies for its own system as well as those in the areas heretofore served by the former mutual companies. The program of rehabilitation also includes the repair and replacement of certain mains in the present utility service area which will insure a satisfactory service to the utility's present 89 consumers.

J. William Jensen, President of Big Bear Pines Water Company, testified that arrangements had been made with Big Bear Pines Club which has provided the company with \$20,000 for the development of additional water supplies and for system improvements throughout both present and proposed service areas. Furthermore, this club has agreed to supply whatever additional funds may be necessary to guarantee sufficient water to meet all system requirements. The water company has retained the services of W. P. Rowe & Son, consulting engineers, which firm has been and now is in active charge of water development and system construction.

The following facts on water supply are summarized from the testimony of Wm. P. Rowe.

Section 24 in which these various subdivisions are located lies along the base of Sugar Loaf Mountain. The southerly portion is considerably higher, the land sloping downward to the north to Baldwin Lake. The former mutual water companies depended mainly on springs at the base of the mountain which delivered water by gravity flow into storage reservoirs. There are three springs, Culvert Spring, near the upper reservoir and Cave and Ladder Springs bringing in water through approximately  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of 2-inch pipe now in a poor state of repair. As the result of the present seven-year period of drought in this area, the yield of these springs has diminished from a maximum of 40 gallons per minute to a minimum of 15 gallons per minute reported in 1949 and now is producing about 3 gallons per minute. The supply however is being used to the full extent economically feasible.

Well No. 1, 6 inches in diameter and 260 feet deep, is in the central part of the utility's service area but by reason of existing drought conditions has gradually lowered in production to the point where it can no longer be pumped continuously. It is used now only as a standby or emergency unit. Wells Nos. 2 and 3 are located in water bearing land acquired by the company in Big Bear Woodlands, a distance of  $1\text{-}1/4$  miles from the utility's service area. These wells are in the flat lands near Baldwin Lake at a considerably lower elevation than the territory served. Water from these wells is boosted by gas engine driven pumps, operating against a working pressure of 190 pounds per square inch. Well No. 2 is 10 inches in diameter, 100 feet deep, drilled in 1949 and produced 36 gallons per minute with existing pumping equipment on test made February 24, 1951.

Well No. 3 is 8 inches in diameter and 287 feet in depth. It has been drilled only recently and produced 200 gallons per minute with a lift of 220 feet on a 24-hour test made April 26 and 27, 1951. The static water level of both these wells stands at 28 feet.

Several test wells have been drilled by the company with rotary rigs in the higher elevations in an effort to locate water where the present excessive pumping lifts could be avoided. The two major test wells, No. 4 and No. 5, located near the upper reservoir, failed to produce water in usable quantities.

In further exploratory work, the company has engaged the services of Mr. Jack Hibner, a well-drilling specialist who now is prospecting by horizontal drilling to penetrate behind an existing dike on the hill above the upper reservoir site in an effort to develop water intercepted by the out-crop formation. At the time of the hearing held in this proceeding, his drilling operations had reached 180 feet from the facing and while the indications of water were favorable, the drilling had not been completed and prospective results at this time are therefore problematical.

At present, according to Mr. Rowe's testimony, the company has available from existing and usable sources a total water supply of 300,000 gallons per day, more than ample for present and future requirements when the entire present and proposed service areas are fully developed.

The storage facilities are reported to provide 200,000 gallons in two concrete reservoirs<sup>1/</sup> covered and screened, and 30,000 gallons in two additional tanks. Such storage is ample for present and future carry-over requirements for both service areas.

<sup>1/</sup> The lower reservoir built at ground level is protected by cyclone-type fence against access by unauthorized persons and by animals.

San Bernardino County Health Department maintains bacteriological control over this water system. The results of its laboratory tests of the water have been satisfactory. The company is operating under permit to supply water granted by the State Department of Public Health, dated March 27, 1951. The Department's report on this system finds that the well water is high in iron, requiring treatment for iron control and that the stabilization treatment recommended and now being provided by the company is satisfactory.

No franchise for the requested service area extension is required by the County of San Bernardino for the operation of this water system. However, the company heretofore has received the necessary permits from the county authorities for construction and maintenance purposes and may obtain others upon application when required. The company desires to operate under the same rates, rules and regulations in the proposed extended areas as now authorized and in effect for its present consumers.

The proposed service area extension includes the following subdivisions:

Big Bear Park Annex, Big Bear Highlands, Big Bear Park No. 1, Tract No. 1855, Tract No. 2001, and Camp Fontenelle, County of San Bernardino, located in Section 24, Township 2 North, Range 1 East, S. B. B. & M.

There was no protest made against the granting of the certificate as requested. There was, however, some apprehension expressed by certain water users because of the recognized poor condition of certain mains both in the original service area and in the new territory, resulting from winter freezing and worn-out pipe lines.

The record shows that the company now has available ample financial resources for the necessary replacement and repair of mains, for water supply development, and for equipment. A major portion of

the necessary improvements already has been made and the full program is now in progress. The testimony shows that the officials of this utility, with the cooperation of Big Bear Pines Club, are sparing no expense to provide an adequate and satisfactory water service throughout both present and extended areas, in spite of the fact that the operations of the system for the year 1950 showed an out-of-pocket loss reported to be \$5,414.

It appears, therefore, that the request for extension of service area should be granted.

The certificate of public convenience and necessity granted herein is subject to the following provision of law:

That the Commission shall have no power to authorize the capitalization of this certificate of public convenience and necessity or the right to own, operate or enjoy such certificate of public convenience and necessity in excess of the amount (exclusive of any tax or annual charge) actually paid to the State as the consideration for the issuance of such certificate of public convenience and necessity or right.

O R D E R

The above-entitled application having been considered, a public hearing having been held thereon, the matter having been submitted and now being ready for decision,

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT that public convenience and necessity require the operation of a public utility water system by Big Bear Pines Water Company, a corporation, in the subdivisions designated as Big Bear Park Annex, Big Bear Highlands, Big Bear Park No. 1, Tract No. 1855, Tract No. 2001, and Camp Fontenelle, County of San Bernardino, being more particularly described as located in and comprising:

The southwest quarter of Section 24, excepting approximate westerly 800 feet there of;

The approximate easterly 1,380 feet of the northwest quarter of Section 24;

The southerly 400 feet of the easterly 580 feet of the westerly 1,260 feet of the northwest quarter of said Section 24, Township 2 North, Range 1 East, S. B. B. & M.;

and as said area is delineated upon the map filed in this proceeding marked Exhibit No. 1, said map being made a part of this order by reference; therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. That a certificate of public convenience and necessity be and it is granted to Big Bear Pines Water Company to operate a public utility water system for the production, distribution and sale of water within the territory hereinabove described.
2. Big Bear Pines Water Company is authorized to charge for all service rendered within the above-described territory its presently effective rates and to operate therein under its filed rules and regulations.
3. Big Bear Pines Water Company shall file within forty (40) days after the effective date of this order four (4) copies of a comprehensive map, drawn to an indicated scale of not less than 600 feet to the inch, delineating by appropriate markings the various tracts of land and territory served and the location of the various properties of applicant.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1951.

R. J. [Signature]  
James J. [Signature]  
Harold [Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
 Commissioners.