

ORIGINALDecision No. 53142

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

L. C. SHAVER, et al)

Complainant)

vs.)

Case No. 5695)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER)
COMPANY, a corporation)

Defendant)

L. C. Shaver, complainant.
O'Melveney & Meyers, by Loren M. Wright, for defendant.
John D. Reader, for Commission's staff.

O P I N I O N

The principal complainant is a resident of Ojai, California, who operates a laundromat in that city. The other complainants are residents and business people of the City of Ojai who likewise use water from defendant company. The defendant is a public utility water corporation serving consumers in Ojai.

The complaint alleges that during the months of July, August and September, 1955, the water supplied by the defendant company was muddy and contained such quantities of silt and dirt as to make the water unusable. The prayer requests the Commission to determine the adequacy of defendant's system.

The answer of the defendant admits that on or about August 6, 1955, its Well No. 1 became muddied due to a caving in of the well casing. It is further alleged in the answer that Well No. 1 is now out of service and will not be placed back in service until rehabilitated.

A public hearing was held in Ojai, California, before Examiner Grant E. Syphers on May 1, 1956, at which time evidence was adduced and the matter submitted.

Various users of the water testified as to the muddy condition during the months of July, August and September, 1955, pointing out the difficulties they encountered in attempting to conduct their homes or businesses under these conditions. In many instances the water was completely unusable for several days at a time.

The defendant company, through its chief engineer, testified that its Well No. 1 did become muddied in August, 1955, as a result of a failure in the well casing. As soon as this condition was discovered the well thereafter was used only to meet peak loads during the remainder of the summer and was observed and periodically checked. It was finally taken out of service in December, 1955. Subsequently the defendant company appropriated \$25,000 to drill a new well, which drilling now is being conducted and a depth of approximately 200 feet has been reached. It is the plan of the company to use this new well, and not to use Well No. 1 in the future.

A consideration of the evidence in this matter leads us to the conclusion, and we find, that the defendant company is making reasonable efforts to provide a satisfactory water supply. The testimony in these proceedings indicates that at the present time there are no complaints as to the water, and the representations of the company lead us to believe that the future water supply should be satisfactory. Upon this record, therefore, the complaint will be dismissed without prejudice.

ORDER

Complaint and answer in the instant case having been filed, public hearing having been held thereon, the Commission being fully advised in the premises, and good cause appearing,

IT IS ORDERED that the complaint of L. C. Shaver et al against Southern California Water Company, a corporation, be and it hereby is dismissed without prejudice.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 2nd day of May, 1956.

 President
Justin F. Callahan

Ralph Winters

William H. Cook

R. H. Knight

 Commissioners

Commissioner Peter E. Mitchell, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.