

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 5332S

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

TWIN LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS, INC.)
 Complainant,)

vs.)

Case No. 5736

TWIN LAKES PARK COMPANY and)
 WILLIAM E. LAWRENCE)
 Defendants.)

Leroy D. Lowery, for Twin Lakes Property
 Owners, Inc.
 Howlett and Weiler, by Elmer H. Howlett, for
 Twin Lakes Park Company, defendant.
Charles W. Drake and Richard Entwistle, for
 the Public Utilities Commission.

INTERIM OPINION

The Twin Lakes Park Company is a California corporation having its principal place of business at 608 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, California. It owns land in the vicinity of Chatsworth in Los Angeles County, which land consists of a subdivided area of between 50 and 75 acres and an unsubdivided area of approximately 100 acres. On this property it has four wells, two of which are operating, and there are pipe lines to approximately 64 residences plus the remaining vacant lots in the subdivided area.

The complainants herein are residents of the area and users of the water service which is furnished to them by the defendant company. The complaint requests that the Commission declare this company a public utility and require it to comply with the rules and regulations applicable thereto. Likewise the complaint requests that certain improvements be ordered in the operations and conduct of the water system.

A public hearing was held on May 23, 1956, before Examiner Grant E. Syphers in Los Angeles, at which time evidence was adduced and the matter submitted for the purpose of determining whether or not the defendant company is a public utility.

At the hearing various residents and users of the water service testified that they are receiving water from the defendant company and that they are being billed and are paying for such water service. Most of the witnesses likewise complained as to the type of water service being furnished. They generally contended that there is a great deal of air in the water lines, that the water is sometimes milky and dirty, and that on occasions there are shortages of water.

The president of the defendant company described the facilities and admitted that the company is selling water for domestic purposes for "64 or 65" houses. Each house is metered and is billed monthly for water furnished. He further contended that the users are delinquent in their payments for water service in a total amount in excess of \$6,000.

The counsel for the defendant company stated that defendant is willing to be declared a utility subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

A consideration of all of the evidence adduced in this matter leads us to the conclusion, and we now find, that the Twin Lakes Park Company is conducting operations as a public utility water corporation as that term is defined in Section 241 of the Public Utilities Code. Clearly it is operating a water system in connection with the sale of water for domestic purposes.

The ensuing order will be interim in nature and the practices of this water utility will be inquired into in a subsequent hearing.

INTERIM ORDER

Complaint as above entitled having been filed, public hearing having been held thereon, and the Commission being fully advised in the premises,

IT IS ORDERED that the Twin Lakes Park Company is hereby declared to be a water corporation as that term is defined in Section 241 of the Public Utilities Code, and is subject to the applicable law, rules and regulations pertaining thereto.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that further hearings be held in this matter before such commissioner and/or examiner as may be designated and at a time and place to be set, for the purpose of inquiring into the complaint as to the services and practices of this utility.

The Secretary of this Commission is directed to cause a certified copy of this decision to be served upon said defendant and other parties to this case.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 10th day of July, 1956.

John E. Mitchell
President

Justice J. Casner

Ray E. Luteran

Thomas H. Boole

By Hardy
Commissioners