

**ORIGINAL**Decision No. 54550

## BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the Application of )  
 Jewel and Myrtle Pharis, a private- )  
 ly owned company, for a certificate )  
 of Public Convenience and Necessity )  
 to Operate a Public Utility Water ) Application No. 38309  
 System and to Establish Rates for )  
 Water Service in an Unincorporated )  
 Area South and West of Lindsay, )  
 California, known as Plainview Rural )  
Station or Lot 11 Tulare County. )

Jewel Pharis and R. C. Soults for applicant.

W. Ben Stradley for the Commission Staff.

O P I N I O N

This application was filed on August 2, 1956. Public hearing was held before Examiner Power at Porterville on October 16, 1956. The matter was submitted subject to the late filing of an exhibit. The exhibit has since been received and the matter is ready for decision.

A water service certificate is requested for an area consisting of approximately 42 acres, located about 4 miles west of Strathmore, Tulare County, adjacent to Cairns Road and Strathmore Avenue. This area will eventually be subdivided into about 138 residential lots averaging about 7,500 square feet in area. At the present time, however, only 10 acres of this area has been subdivided into 37 lots.

At the present time there is no public utility water service available in this immediate area, although there is a nearby mutually operated water system. The owners of this system, when contacted, indicated a desire not to extend their water system outside its present service area.

The water supply for this system will be obtained from a well equipped with a 30-hp electrically driven deep well turbine pump capable of producing an estimated 300 gallons of water per minute against 50 pounds system pressure. A hydropneumatic pressure tank of 3,000-gallon capacity will be situated at the well.

The distribution system which is presently installed consists of about 1,700 feet of 4-inch diameter dipped and wrapped 12-gauge steel pipe. Service connections will be 1 inch in diameter. Applicant indicates the cost of the proposed facilities to be as follows:

<u>Ac. No.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
301	Organization Costs	\$ 350.00
306	Land	500.00
315	Wells	3,456.00
324	Pumping Equipment	4,031.98
342	Reservoirs and Tanks	1,545.89
343	Transmission & Distribution Mains	2,805.00
345	Services	504.00
348	Hydrants	110.00
	Total	\$13,302.87

Applicant has requested a basic flat rate charge of \$3.50 with additional charge for each 100 square feet of area in excess of 7,500 square feet and extra charges for water coolers during a five-month summer period. Applicant intends to furnish water on a flat rate basis; however, meter rates have also been requested. The proposed rates are comparable to rate levels in similar water systems in the same general area. They will be authorized with certain minor changes.

The proposed construction will be financed with the personal funds of applicant, and it is not anticipated that any indebtedness will be incurred at this time.

The water supply now developed by applicant is barely sufficient for the 37 lots in Tract No. 247 as delineated on the map filed as Exhibit No. 2 in this proceeding. <sup>1/</sup> Therefore, the following

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<sup>1/</sup> The map filed as Exhibit A attached to the application does not correctly show the limits of Tract No. 247.

order will restrict the certificate to that tract. Additional water supply must be provided before any extensions are made.

The Commission finds and concludes that public convenience and necessity require that the sought authority be granted. It further finds that applicant's presently developed water supply is sufficient for the lots in Tract No. 247, Tulare County, only. It further finds that the rates set forth in the following order are fair and reasonable. The certificate set forth in the following order is granted 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 for any amount of money 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, the matter having been submitted and now being ready for decision,

1. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a certificate of public convenience and necessity be and it is hereby granted to Jewel Pharis and Myrtle Pharis, doing business as Central Water System, to construct and operate a public utility system for the distribution and sale of water within Tract No. 247 of Tulare County.

2. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED as follows:

- a. Applicants are authorized to file after the effective date of this order the rates set forth in Appendix A attached to this order to be effective on or before the date service is first rendered to the public, together with rules and tariff service area map acceptable to this Commission and in accordance with the requirements of General Order No. 96. Such rates, rules and tariff service area map shall become effective on five days' notice to the Commission and to the public after filing as hereinabove provided.

- b. Applicants shall notify this Commission, in writing, of the date service is first rendered to the public under the rates and rules authorized herein, within ten days thereafter.
- c. Applicants shall file within forty days after the system is placed in operation under the rates and rules authorized herein four copies of a comprehensive map, drawn to an indicated scale not smaller than 100 feet to the inch, delineating by appropriate markings the tract of land and territory served; the principal water production, storage and distribution facilities; and the location of the various water system properties of applicant.
- d. Applicant shall base the accruals to depreciation upon spreading the original cost of the plant, less estimated net salvage and depreciation reserve, over the estimated remaining life of the property; applicant shall review the accruals when major changes in plant composition occur and for each plant account at intervals of not more than five years. Results of these reviews shall be submitted to this Commission.

3. Applicants shall not extend service to any property outside the boundaries of Tract No. 247, Tulare County, without first having obtained authority from the Commission so to do.

The authorization herein granted will expire if not exercised within one year from the date hereof.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the application of Jewel Pharis and Myrtle Pharis, except as specifically granted herein, be and it is denied without prejudice.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 1957.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
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 President  
*[Handwritten signature]*  
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Commissioners

4 Commissioner Rox Hardy being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

## Schedule No. 1

GENERAL METERED SERVICEAPPLICABILITY

Applicable to all metered water service.

TERRITORY

The unincorporated area, Tract No. 247, adjacent to Cairns Road approximately four miles west of the community of Strathmore, Tulare County.

RATES

	<u>Per Meter per Month</u>
Quantity Rates:	
First 1,000 cu.ft. or less .....	\$ 3.00
Next 2,000 cu.ft., per 100 cu.ft. ....	.20
Next 2,000 cu.ft., per 100 cu.ft. ....	.18
Next 5,000 cu.ft., per 100 cu.ft. ....	.15
Over 10,000 cu.ft., per 100 cu.ft. ....	.12
Minimum Charge:	
For 5/8 x 3/4-inch meter .....	\$ 3.00
For 3/4-inch meter .....	3.50
For 1-inch meter .....	4.50
For 1-1/2-inch meter .....	7.00
For 2-inch meter .....	10.00

The Minimum Charge will entitle the customer to the quantity of water which that minimum charge will purchase at the Quantity Rates.

Schedule No. 2R

RESIDENTIAL FLAT RATE SERVICE

APPLICABILITY

Applicable to all residential water service furnished on a flat rate basis.

TERRITORY

The unincorporated area, Tract No. 247, adjacent to Cairns Road approximately four miles west of the community of Strathmore, Tulare County.

RATES

	<u>Per Service Connection per Month</u>
For each single family residence, including premises not exceeding 8,000 sq.ft. in area ...	\$3.50
a. In addition, for each 100 sq.ft. of area of premises in excess of 8,000 sq.ft.....	.03
b. In addition, for each evaporative-type air cooler during the 5-month period May through September, inclusive:	
Water recirculating type .....	.25
Water wasting type .....	.50

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. The above residential flat rate charges apply to service connections not larger than one inch in diameter.
2. All service not covered by the above classification will be furnished only on a metered basis.
3. Charges for air coolers will apply as provided in the above schedule except in those cases where the customer notifies the utility in writing which months during the above period any air cooler will not be in service, and provided that such unit is disconnected during said months subject to inspection by utility representatives.
4. Meters may be installed at option of utility or customer for above classification in which event service thereafter will be rendered only on the basis of Schedule No. 1, General Metered Service. When a meter is installed at option of customer, metered service must be continued for at least twelve months before service will again be furnished at flat rates.