

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 57310

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

THE MOUNTAIN PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, )  
an unincorporated association, CARL F. )  
MENKE, ELLA BURMEISTER, WILLIAM MILLER, )  
KARL STROBEL, C. J. C. SHARPE, JESSE R. )  
IRELAND, BURTON FLEMING, FRED RAHM, )  
CORA B. DOSS and FRED AUERBACHER, )

Complainants,

vs.

LURING PINES WATER COMPANY,

Defendant.

Case No. 5835  
Petition for Modification  
(Amended)

Richard E. Saulque, attorney, for defendant and  
petitioner.

Lonergan & Jordan, by A. M. Sessions, for complainants.  
Donald B. Steger and Reginald H. Knaggs, for the  
Commission staff.

O P I N I O N

The above entitled complaint was filed on October 18, 1956, by a group of customers of Raymond A. Luring, an individual, doing business as Luring Pines Water Company as a public utility water operator. Said complaint alleged many types of water service deficiencies in Tracts Nos. 2276 and 2553 which comprise the area certificated by Decision No. 42127, dated October 11, 1948, in Application No. 29457, in unincorporated territory of San Bernardino County on Rim of the World Highway in the San Bernardino Mountains about midway between Lake Arrowhead and Big Bear Lake. After a public hearing in June, 1957, Decision No. 55367, dated August 5,

1957, issued. By said decision defendant was ordered to install a hydropneumatic tank and booster pump in the immediate vicinity of the high storage tanks of his water system of sufficient capacity to provide adequate water pressure at all times to his customers in the vicinity of said storage tanks; to place meters on all service connections; to report all water outages, and complaints, monthly for a period of two years; to read all meters and bill all customers in accordance with his filed tariffs; and not to effect any extensions to his water system, as then operating, in Tracts Nos. 2776, 2553, 2919, and 3339 until further order of the Commission.

On December 6, 1957, the defendant filed a petition for modification of Decision No. 55367, supra, in which he alleged that a 3000-gallon storage tank and a 5-HP electric booster pump had been ordered, and that a new 10-HP electric motor and 2-stage pump had been installed at the City Creek Spring, all of which had materially increased the supply of water available; and that he had received requests from 2 people for water service. He requested that the restrictions, hereinbefore noted, on defendant's adding service connections be lifted in order that the requested service for water to the 2 applicants be allowed.

By an amendment filed May 8, 1958, said petition was expanded by the allegations that the defendant had arranged for the full utilization of his Big Reservoir by the installation of automatic water leveling control switches; that he had arranged to fully waterproof the Big Reservoir; and that he was in the process of drilling for and developing additional water. Based on such expanded allegations, defendant asked the Commission to allow him to serve the 12 additional applicants; a total of 14 new service applications.

Public hearings on the petition, as originally filed and as amended, were held before Examiner Stewart C. Warner on May 13 and 14, and July 16, 1958, at Running Springs. Defendant's witnesses presented testimony and evidence with respect to pumping and storage facilities installed, and proposed to be installed, transmission pipe line proposed to be installed, new wells drilled, and sources of water supply developed and in the process of being made available to defendant's domestic water system. Complainants' witnesses testified regarding water service conditions during the year 1957 and during the first 6½ months of 1958.

The record shows that, whereas defendant's domestic water service was grossly inadequate as to water supply, operating pressures, and storage and pipe-line facilities during and prior to the year 1957, the several improvements made at the direction of the Commission, and on defendant's own initiative, had largely eliminated the service conditions complained of and service conditions had greatly improved during the first 6½ months of 1958.

The record shows that defendant has installed a pressure tank and booster pump at the High Tanks; has replaced the original booster pump at his Big Reservoir with a pump capable of pumping 100 gallons per minute into the High Tanks, thus, in effect, making Big Reservoir, with a capacity of 150,000 gallons, a distribution storage reservoir resulting in total distribution storage of 226,000 gallons; that Big Reservoir has been fully waterproofed, thus eliminating water losses from said reservoir; that automatic controls have been installed at High Tanks and Big Reservoir; that the drilling of five additional horizontal wells, with nearly 300 gallons per minute

of total tested production capacity has been completed; that a 5000-gallon storage tank has been moved to a location below said five new wells to serve as a collecting reservoir for said wells; and that a 4-inch transmission main has been installed to connect the new wells with defendant's water system.

Two customers, with cabins located near the High Tanks and booster pump, complained of excessive and almost continuous noise from the booster pump's operation. Late-filed Exhibit No. 8 is a report of the results of defendant's investigation of the pressure pump noise ordered by the examiner to be submitted to the Commission and to the complaining parties. Said exhibit indicates that defendant has taken steps to eradicate this nuisance.

Late-filed Exhibit No. 7 is a letter to the Commission from the defendant stating that the new water supplies have been connected to the water system, and automatic controls for the operation of the pumps at the new wells have been installed.

#### Findings and Conclusions

The Commission finds as a fact and concludes that the water service of Raymond A. Luring, an individual, doing business as Luring Pines Water Company, the defendant herein, has improved to the extent that the restriction placed on the defendant's adding service connections by Decision No. 55367 may and should, in the public interest, be lifted and modified, and that the defendant should be allowed to add water service connections to the 14 additional applicants for such service as listed in the petition and its amendment herein being considered. Decision No. 55367 will be so modified hereinafter.

The order which follows will also provide, however, that defendant shall continue to submit the monthly reports of water service complaints as required by Decision No. 55367 and shall include in each of such reports a statement of its progress in reducing booster pump noises to a reasonable minimum, until such noise reduction has been effected.

O R D E R

Petition for Modification, as Amended, of Decision No. 55367, in the above-entitled complaint, having been filed, public hearings have been held, the matter having been submitted and now being ready for decision,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. That ordering paragraph 3 of Decision No. 55367, dated August 5, 1957, be and it is modified, and that the restrictions against Raymond A. Luring, an individual, doing business as Luring Pines Water Company, the defendant herein, furnishing water to any new or additional customers, or effecting any new or further connections to his water system then operating in Tracts Nos. 2276, 2553, 2919, and 3339 in San Bernardino County, be, and they are, lifted only in that said Raymond A. Luring be and he is authorized to add water service connections to his existing water system in said tracts to furnish water service to the 14 applicants for water service as set forth in the petition and the amendment thereto.
2. That defendant shall continue to submit monthly reports of complaints of water service as provided by paragraph 8 of Decision No. 55367, and shall include in such reports a statement of his

progress in reducing the booster pump noises at the High Tanks to a reasonable minimum until such noise reduction has been effected.

3. That defendant shall continue to maintain a daily record of the High Tanks water level in the same manner as submitted in Exhibit No. 4, and shall submit to the Commission a copy of such record monthly, on or before the tenth day of each succeeding month, until October 31, 1959.

4. That in all other respects Decision No. 55367 shall remain in full force and effect.

The effective date of this order shall be the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California,  
this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1958.

E. Lynn Fox  
President  
W. H. Mitchell  
Ralph W. Winters  
Walter D. Diller  
Theodore J. James  
Commissioners