

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 58267

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY
IMPROVEMENT,

Complainant,

vs.

Case No. 6184

LA MIRADA WATER COMPANY, a
California corporation,

Defendant.

Maurice R. Hogan, Jr., for complainant.
John Moore Robinson and Carl B. Johnston for
defendant.

Sam E. McGuffin, interested party.
C. O. Newman for the Commission staff.

O P I N I O N

Public hearings were held in this matter at La Mirada before Examiner Grant E. Syphers on December 19, 1958, and February 16, 1959. On these dates evidence was adduced and on the last-named date the matter was submitted subject to late-filed exhibits. These now have been filed and the matter is ready for decision.

The complainant is a civic organization formed and organized by residents of La Mirada who are users of the water service of defendant. In the complaint it is requested that the defendant be restrained from serving any new or additional customers until it has adequate facilities and equipment, that defendant be ordered

to make necessary improvements to its present distribution system, and that it be required to take the necessary steps to provide for clear, potable water. The answer of the defendant constitutes in substance a general and specific denial of the allegations in the complaint.

The evidence adduced at the hearing discloses that the water service of defendant is frequently furnished at low pressures and on many occasions the water is discolored and not fit for domestic use. This testimony was presented by witnesses who are users of this water service.

Engineering testimony presented revealed that this company presently has 2,826 service connections with a potential of about 3,000. The elevation of the area served is from about 100 feet to about 245 feet above sea level. The system receives water from five wells, and for the purposes of discussion in this hearing was divided into two systems known as the upper and lower systems. The upper system is supplied by Well No. 3 which has a capacity of approximately 750 gallons per minute. There are 669 service connections in this area, or about 22.5 percent of the total. The lower system receives water from four wells having a combined capacity of about 2,099 gallons per minute.

It appears that the dirty water comes principally from Well No. 3, and the California State Department of Public Health has written a letter to the company asking them to remove this well from service if possible to do so.

The company stated that water from Well No. 3 has been bad and that there is insufficient water to supply the entire area in a satisfactory manner. It proposed as solutions (1) to tie in with the Metropolitan Water District, (2) to have additional storage capacity, and (3) to drill additional wells.

Specifically, the company's first plan was to make certain improvements and additions to the system consisting of the installation of new mains, new storage tanks, and new pumping equipment. These improvements would result, according to the testimony, in more adequate pressure and in a better quantity of water. Likewise, the company proposes the use of a new Well No. 7 which was drilled during the period between the first and second hearings in this matter.

A second plan based on an engineering study was presented by the company which proposed more extensive improvements and, in effect, would set up a two-zone system, one for the higher level, and one for the lower level. This plan would cost approximately \$50,000 more than the first plan proposed by the company.

It was the position of the company that it could put into effect its first plan, as hereinabove mentioned, and was willing to do so now. However, if it is required to put in the more extensive two-zone system recommended in the engineering study, then the company will need a rate increase in order to finance the improvements. The testimony further discloses that if the company's first plan is placed into effect, it later can be expanded to the two-zone plan.

The position of the complainant was that the two-zone plan should now be placed in effect since it is the more desirable and will provide a better solution.

After giving consideration to all of the evidence adduced in these proceedings, we now find that it will be in the public interest for the company to immediately put into effect its first plan as set out in its letter of February 18, 1959, which was received in evidence in these proceedings as Exhibit No. 14. The utility has indicated that the major components of this plan will be completed prior to May 20, 1959. The utility is placed on notice that it should proceed expeditiously with all phases of its program. This conclusion is without prejudice to further consideration by this Commission, in a proper proceeding, of the necessity of expanding these improvements to effectuate a two-zone system.

O R D E R

Complaint as above entitled having been filed, public hearing having been held thereon, the Commission being fully advised in the premises and hereby finding it to be in the public interest,

IT IS ORDERED that La Mirada Water Company, a California corporation, be and it hereby is directed to effect the following changes and improvements in its water system, all to comply with the minimum standards for design and construction as prescribed by General Order No. 103:

1. Install at Well No. 3 equipment for the treating of water from that well with Calgon.
2. Abandon the 30,000-gallon storage reservoir at Well No. 3 and abandon all booster pumps now installed at this storage facility, thereafter connect Well No. 3 direct to 924,000 gallons of new storage north of Alicante Road.

3. Install a 12-inch pressure main running northerly from the existing 8-inch main on Alicante Road to the new reservoir site approximately 250 feet north of Alicante Road, this 12-inch main to connect with a turbine-type booster pump which will derive its intake from the 924,000 gallons of storage. This pump is to be driven by a natural gas engine operating on a continuous basis controlled only by system pressure. The 12-inch pressure main is to be equipped with a bypass into the storage tanks, which bypass is to be controlled by an altitude valve so set that when the system pressure permits and storage is needed water from the system will flow into the storage.
4. All pressure pumps in the system shall be so installed and maintained as to permit efficient operation at a range of 10 psi.
5. Install a 12-inch line across the southeasterly portion of the shopping center, extending from Ocaso Avenue to the intersection of Santa Gertrudes and Adelfa.
6. Install a 10-inch line from Well No. 7 to tie to the existing 8-inch line located at Dalmation and Stage Road.
7. Install a 12-inch line from Well No. 7 to tie to an 8-inch line presently installed on Alondra Boulevard.
8. Install approximately 800 feet of 8-inch main on Stage Road from Bluefield Avenue to Barbata Road.
9. Increase the discharge line from the Barnwall reservoir to a size sufficient to avoid excessive friction loss and to permit the utilization of the pumping plant at this storage.
10. Equip Well No. 7 with a 10-inch deep well turbine pump operating through a gear head by a natural gas pumping unit which will discharge directly into the system through a sand extractor, the facility to have a capacity of delivering 1,000 GPM at 95 psi; 1,200 GPM at 90 psi; and 1,600 GPM at 86 psi.

11. At Well No. 7 construct an acoustically sound-proofed well house. A like housing will be provided for the gas unit at the reservoir site north of Alicante.
12. At the site of the reservoir north of Alicante Road construct an acoustically soundproofed well house for the gas unit at the reservoir site.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that within thirty days of the effective date of this order the defendant shall submit to this Commission, in writing, a schedule acceptable to the Commission showing the anticipated dates of completing the foregoing improvements and additions, and shall submit in writing every thirty days thereafter a report covering the status of said improvements until all have been completed.

The Secretary is directed to cause a copy of this order to be served upon defendant forthwith, and the effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date of such service.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 14th day of April, 1959.

D. L. Fox
President
John E. [illegible]
William [illegible]
Theodore H. [illegible]
Everett [illegible]
Commissioners