

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 60085

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's)
own motion into the service,)
operations, rules and practices of)
PACIFIC WATER CO., a corporation.)

Case No. 6387

Moss, Lyon & Dunn, by George C. Lyon,
for respondent.
Ide Keeler, for San Bernardino County
Health Department, interested party.
Franklin G. Campbell, for the Commission
staff.

O P I N I O N

Public hearing was held in this matter before Examiner Grant E. Syphers, on February 8, 1960, at Victorville, California. On this date evidence was adduced concerning the Victorville systems Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Pacific Water Co., and the matter was submitted. The respondent and the staff were given permission to file briefs. These now have been filed and this phase of the investigation is ready for decision.

The evidence adduced at the hearing concerned alleged deficiencies in the Victorville systems and recommendations to remedy these deficiencies.

Of the five Victorville systems, Nos. 1, 4 and 5, are located in Apple Valley, No. 6 is located in Lucerne Valley, and No. 3 is situated between these two valleys. There are approximately 395 customers in the five systems and there is a plant investment therein of \$610,295. Of this amount the company has invested \$153,762, or approximately 25 per cent.

Victorville No. 1 South

This system presently provides service to about 110 customers in an area of 510 acres, which area when completely developed, will be occupied by approximately 400 customers. Additionally in this system the utility is certificated to serve a total of 1,960 acres which may eventually develop into services for about 1,000 customers. There is an existing well which will provide sufficient water for approximately 450 users, but there is no provision for stand-by service in case of a power or pump failure.

The staff study points out that this system will eventually need an additional well or wells with a pumping capacity of about 500 gallons per minute and a total storage capacity of 250,000 gallons, but also points out that the present pumping equipment is adequate to serve the existing customers. However, since there is no provision for stand-by service, it is recommended that a 50,000-gallon storage tank be installed at an elevation of approximately 3,250 feet. Likewise it is recommended that a 10-inch main of about 1,900 feet in length and an 8-inch main of about 2,000 feet be installed to connect this elevated storage to the system. An additional well and pump are also recommended. The estimated cost of making these improvements would be \$42,000. It is suggested that these improvements be made upon a gradual basis as additional customers are served. For example, when 150 customers are served, the estimated cost of the additional improvements would be \$9,500, and for the immediate improvements recommended the cost would be \$8,000.

The position of the company is that it will immediately install a new booster pump and will proceed to investigate probable sites to install the tank. However, it can give no assurance that

this tank site can be obtained and it does not have the funds immediately available to secure the site, install the tank and necessary connections, during the year 1960.

Victorville No. 1 North

This system presently furnishes water to about 22 customers in an area no part of which has been certificated. There is no physical connection between this system and any other system of the company. The area served consists of approximately 690 acres and is now being developed into lots of about one half to three-quarters of an acre in size. In the future, therefore, it could have approximately 900 customers. Water is received from two wells which are irrigation wells and which require additional work to seal off surface waters. There is a 26,000-gallon surface storage tank and two small pressure tanks. The existing pressure tank will be adequate to serve this area until about 35 customers are taking water. The wells can be made adequate to serve about 400 customers, with present pumping equipment, by installing larger pressure tanks. If an adequate storage and booster pumping system is installed, the wells can be made adequate to serve about 2,200 customers. The improvements recommended by the staff for this system would ultimately total a net amount of \$33,500. Immediate improvements consisting of sealing the two existing wells and moving an existing 2,100-gallon pressure tank from the Victorville No. 1 South to the Victorville No. 1 North area would cost about \$800. When 100 customers are served it is recommended that a 50,000-gallon tank be installed together with a 5,000-gallon pressure tank, and a 500-gallon-per-minute booster pump. These installations would cost \$8,500. When 400 customers are served, larger storage is recommended together with about 8,000 feet of pipe installations at a net cost of \$24,200.

The company has offered to re-equip one well and place the other on stand-by service. To do this, it will install a 25-hp motor and pump and install necessary pipeline and a pressure release valve in connection with its 26,000-gallon tank. The controls in this system will continue to be manual for the time being. The company estimates that the additional investment required to make these corrections will cost approximately \$5,000.

Victorville No. 3

This system now provides water service to 11 customers and consists of a certificated area of 640 acres. According to the staff report it has two basic problems. First, the water mains have numerous leaks and, secondly, there is an excess of fluorides in the water itself. The staff recommends that some plan of replacing these mains should be established and that the fluoride problem be pursued on an informal basis by the company in cooperation with the local health department. The staff estimated that to replace 1,000 feet of the mains would cost \$1,900 and the company points out that to install a satisfactory defluoridation plant would cost at least \$28,000.

At the present time it is not considered to be economically feasible to defluoridate the water supply for only 11 customers. However, the company will be ordered to revise its presently filed tariff schedules to eliminate from its Victorville Nos. 1, 3, 4 and 6 Tariff Area the rates for its Victorville No. 3 system and to establish separate schedules of rates for nonpotable water service in the latter. When the customer growth or public demand is such as to warrant the expenditure of installing suitable facilities for removal of the excess fluorides, the company will be ordered to do so.

Victorville No. 4

This system consists of a certificated area of 160 acres and service area of 720 acres. Presently there are approximately 170 customers. The staff recommends that there should be an inter-connection with a 6-inch main of the company serving another tract. This would require 1,320 feet of 8-inch pipe at an estimated cost of \$4,000. The company agrees that this pipe should be installed but estimates that the cost would be over \$5,000.

Victorville No. 5

This system presently services about 40 customers in a service area of 840 acres of which 320 are certificated. The staff recommends that there be immediate repairs to an existing 25,000-gallon storage tank which would cost \$500. When 100 customers are served the staff recommends that there be installed 50,000 gallons of elevated storage and that a larger well pump be provided. These items would have a net cost of \$9,679. When 200 customers are served the staff recommends that an additional well and an additional pump be installed at a cost of \$10,000. The total net expenditures for this system would amount to \$20,179. The company agrees that the existing tank should be repaired and has promised to do so.

Victorville No. 6

This system now provides service to approximately 42 customers in a service area of 615 acres. The certificated area is 875 acres. The staff recommends that an existing pump be replaced at a net cost of \$150. When 100 customers are served a 100,000-gallon tank and 2,000 feet of additional 6-inch main are recommended at a cost of \$15,000. When 200 customers are served it is recommended that pumping equipment be placed on a well which is not now being used. This equipment would cost \$7,000. When 300 customers

are served additional storage and transmission pipe are recommended at a cost of \$7,500. The total estimated net expenditures for this system amount to \$29,650.

Findings and Conclusions

Based upon the evidence adduced herein we find and conclude that the Pacific Water Co.'s Victorville systems are in need of certain repairs and improvements, some of which should be done immediately and others of which will not be necessary until the systems obtain more customers. It is also clear from this record that the company does not have funds available to make all of the improvements recommended, therefore the ensuing order will direct that the company make certain specified improvements, some of them immediately, and that it submit a plan of procedure as to the balance of these improvements.

In its brief, Pacific Water Co. stated its intention to file an application for public convenience and necessity to include all the areas now being served in its Victorville systems. In the order to follow, Pacific will be directed to cease and desist from extending into noncertificated areas not contiguous to its lines, plant or system which action is contrary to the intent of Section 1001 of the Public Utilities Code.

O R D E R

An order of investigation as above entitled having been filed, public hearing having been held thereon, the Commission being fully advised in the premises and hereby finding that the public interest so requires,

IT IS ORDERED that the Pacific Water Co., a corporation, be, and it hereby is, directed to make the following improvements in

its Victorville systems by such dates as hereinafter specified, and to report, in writing, to this Commission concerning these improvements within ten days after each of said improvements has been completed:

1. Victorville No. 1 South

- a. Install a new automatically controlled booster pump by June 16, 1960.
- b. Obtain a suitable site and install a 50,000-gallon tank including fittings, at an elevation of about 3,250 feet, by December 31, 1960.
- c. Install 700 feet of 10-inch main to connect the tank with the existing 4-inch distribution main by December 31, 1960.

2. Victorville No. 1 North

- a. Seal off the existing wells from surface water by June 16, 1960.
- b. Install a pressure tank of approximately 2,000-gallons at the small well site in Victorville No. 1 North by December 31, 1960. The existing 2,100-gallon pressure tank may be moved from Victorville No. 1 South for this purpose if it is no longer needed in that area.
- c. Re-equip one well and install a 25-horsepower motor and pump, together with the necessary pipeline, and a pressure release valve in connection with the existing 26,000-gallon tank by June 30, 1960.

3. Victorville No. 3

- a. Replace approximately 1,000 feet of leaking 4-inch mains along Desert View Avenue and Del Sol Road by September 30, 1960.
- b. Send a written notice to the existing eleven customers stating that the water they are now receiving has an excess of fluorides in it and is not recommended for drinking or culinary purposes. No new customers shall be served from this system without specifically advising them in writing of this situation in advance of the furnishing of any service.
- c. Within twenty days after the effective date of this order Pacific Water Co. shall file the schedules attached hereto as Appendix B for nonpotable water service and concurrently revise its present schedules for its Victorville Nos. 1, 3 4 and 6 Tariff Area to eliminate Victorville No. 3 from those schedules.

Such new and revised tariff sheets ordered to be filed herein shall become effective upon five days' notice to the Commission and to the public after filing as hereinabove provided.

4. Victorville No. 4

Install 1,320 feet of 8-inch main on Mesquite Road by June 30, 1960.

5. Victorville No. 5

Repair existing 25,000-gallon tank not later than December 31, 1960.

6. Victorville No. 6

Replace the existing pump on Well No. 1 by September 30, 1960.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that within ninety days after the effective date of this order the company shall submit, in writing, a plan acceptable to this Commission for consummating each of the improvements listed on Appendix A attached hereto and made a part hereof.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Pacific Water Co. shall cease and desist from extending into territory outside of its certificated areas which territory is not contiguous to its lines, plant or system without prior authorization by this Commission.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 9th day of May, 1960.

[Signature]
President

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]
Commissioners

APPENDIX A
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PACIFIC WATER CO.,
a corporation

A. Victorville No. 1 South

1. Improvements to be made when 150 customers are served:
 - a. Install a second 50,000-gallon tank including fittings.
 - b. Install approximately 1,200 feet of 10-inch pipe including valves.
2. Improvements to be made when 400 customers are served:
 - a. Install a third 50,000-gallon tank including fittings.
 - b. Install about 2,000 feet of 8-inch pipe and connecting valves.
 - c. Obtain an additional well and equip it with a 500-gallon per minute pump.

B. Victorville No. 1 North

1. Improvements to be made when 100 customers are served:
 - a. Install a 50,000-gallon tank at the large well.
 - b. Install a 5,000-gallon pressure tank with a 500-gallon-per-minute booster pump.
2. Improvements to be made when 400 customers are served:
 - a. Install a 150,000-gallon storage tank on an elevated site.
 - b. Install 8,000 feet of 10-inch pipe.

C. Victorville No. 3

1. Improvements to be made when 50 customers are served:
 - a. Obtain an additional water source and necessary pumping equipment.
 - b. Replace about 2,200 feet of 6-inch main and 5,000 feet of 4-inch main.

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PACIFIC WATER CO.,
a corporation

D. Victorville No. 5

1. Improvements to be made when 100 customers are served:
 - a. Install an additional 50,000 gallons of elevated storage.
 - b. Replace the existing well pump with a 300-gallon-per-minute unit.
2. Improvements to be made when 200 customers are served:

Obtain an additional well and a 300-gallon-per-minute pump.

E. Victorville No. 6

1. Improvements to be made when 100 customers are served:
 - a. Install 100,000 gallons of additional storage at an elevation of about 3,640 feet.
 - b. Install 2,000 feet of 6-inch main.
2. Improvements to be made when 200 customers are served:

Install necessary pumping equipment for the well which is presently not in use.
3. Improvements to be made when 300 customers are served:
 - a. Install 50,000 gallons of storage at approximately 3,375-foot elevation.
 - b. Install 800 feet of 6-inch main.

APPENDIX E
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Schedule No. VCB-1
Victorville No. 3 Tariff Area
GENERAL METERED SERVICE
(Nonpotable Water)

APPLICABILITY

Applicable to all nonpotable water service furnished on a metered basis.

TERRITORY

Unincorporated territory comprising Sec. 16, T.4 N., R.2 W., S.B.B. & M., and vicinity, approximately 15 miles southeasterly of Victorville, San Bernardino County.

RATES

	<u>Per Meter</u> <u>Per Month</u>
Quantity Rates:	
First 1,250 cu.ft. or less	\$ 3.00
Next 2,750 cu.ft., per 100 cu.ft.20
Over 4,000 cu.ft., per 100 cu.ft.15
Minimum Charge:	
For 5/8 x 3/4-inch meter	\$ 3.00
For 1-inch meter	4.00
For 1½-inch meter	7.50
For 2-inch meter	10.00
For 3-inch meter	25.00
For 4-inch meter	30.00
For 6-inch meter	40.00

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

APPENDIX B
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Schedule No. VCB-2
Victorville No. 3 Tariff Area
GENERAL FLAT RATE SERVICE
(Nonpotable Water)

APPLICABILITY

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

TERRITORY

Unincorporated territory comprising Sec. 16, T.4 N., R.2 W., S.B.B. & M., and vicinity, approximately 15 miles southeasterly of Victorville, San Bernardino County.

RATES

Per Service Connection
Per Month

For a single family residence, including premises not exceeding 10,000 sq.ft. in area	\$3.00
a. For each additional residential unit on the same premises and served from the same service connection	2.00
b. For each 100 sq.ft. of area of premises in excess of 10,000 sq.ft.03
For each store, market or shop ...	3.00
For each service station	4.00

(Continued)

Schedule No. VCB-2
Victorville No. 3 Tariff Area
GENERAL FLAT RATE SERVICE
(Nonpotable Water)

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. The above residential flat rates apply to service connections not larger than 3/4-inch in diameter.
2. All service not covered by the above classification will be furnished only on a metered basis.
3. Meters may be installed at option of utility or customer for above classification in which event service thereafter will be furnished only on the basis of Schedule No. VCB-1, General Metered Service, Nonpotable Water.