

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 61446

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of }
SOUTHWEST WATER COMPANY, a corpora- }
tion, for authority to increase its }
rates for water service in its }
La Sierra District. }

Application No. 40273
Amended

Arthur D. Guy, Jr., Walker Hammon and John C. Luthin,
for applicant.

Chester O. Newman and R. R. Entwistle, for the
Commission staff.

OPINION ON REOPENED PROCEEDING

By an order dated October 18, 1960, submission of the above-entitled application was set aside and the matter reopened to consider customers' views with respect to service conditions; to determine to what extent the water system improvement program ordered by Decision No. 58138, dated March 17, 1959, in the instant matter had been carried out by the applicant; and to determine the effectiveness of the subject program in the improvement of water service throughout the applicant's service area. The reopened proceeding was consolidated by the order for hearing with Applications Nos. 42273 and 42348 in each of which the applicant seeks authority to extend its water system outside its certificated area. By Decision No. 54649, dated March 12, 1957, in Application No. 38576,

the applicant was required to first obtain the authority of this Commission before extending its water system beyond the boundaries of its certificated area because at that time the water supply was limited and in many locations the distribution facilities were inadequate.

A public hearing was held before Examiner Stewart C. Warner on November 30, 1960, at La Sierra. No protests were entered to the applications for certificates to extend, and no appearances were entered by any of the applicant's customers in its La Sierra district, although notices of the hearing were sent to all parties of record in the original proceedings. The matters were submitted for decision subject to the receipt of late-filed Exhibits Nos. 4 and 5 on or before December 9, 1960, which said exhibits have been received and the matters are ready for decision. A separate decision on Applications Nos. 42273 and 42348 will be issued.

Ordering paragraph No. 4 of Decision No. 58138 directed the applicant to immediately proceed to carry out its water system and service improvement program for the La Sierra District as indicated in Exhibit No. 5 of the original proceedings and to report to the Commission in writing every thirty days, until completed, its progress in carrying out such improvement program. Reports in compliance therewith were filed on April 30, May 26, July 2, August 3, August 28, October 1, December 2, 1959, January 6, February 9, March 3, April 5, April 29, June 20, July 7, September 19, and October 26, 1960.

Ordering paragraph No. 5 of said decision directed the applicant to make a comprehensive engineering and economic study of

the La Sierra district water system to determine the requirements and costs thereof to bring all portions and elements of the La Sierra District water system, including sources of water supply, storage, distribution and transmission facilities up to and in accordance with at least the minimum standards prescribed by General Order No. 103. A report in accordance therewith was filed on November 3, 1959.

Exhibit No. 3 filed at the hearing shows the applicant's improvement construction expenditures for the period January 1, 1959 to October 31, 1960, in its La Sierra District. Said Exhibit relates the items of construction to a map, Exhibit No. 1, filed at the hearing; shows the work order number; shows a description of the improvement; relates such improvement items to Exhibit No. 5 of the original proceedings and to the engineering study required by ordering paragraph No. 5 heretofore referred to; shows the cost to date, the status of the work order, and the cost of main replacements set forth in Exhibit No. 4 of the original proceedings.

Exhibit No. 3 shows the total cost of improvement construction expenditures to October 31, 1960, to have been \$258,098; the cost of meters \$32,302, and the cost of services -- outside tracts -- to have been \$14,401, for total expenditures of \$304,801. Of this sum, \$47,554 represented the cost of main replacements as per Exhibit No. 4.

Exhibit No. 6 is a report of an investigation of the reopened proceeding submitted by a Commission staff engineer.

Said Exhibit also relates the applicant's number of customers, potential growth, water supply, water requirements,

comparison of supply and demand, distribution facilities and new facilities to the instant proceeding and to the applications for extensions outside the certificated area.

Findings and Conclusions

From a review of the record, it appears that the applicant has complied with the provisions of paragraphs Nos. 4 and 5 of Decision No. 58138, but it is found as a fact and concluded that the public interest requires that the progress reports required thereby to be filed by the applicant should be continued and the order hereinafter will so provide.

ORDER ON REOPENED PROCEEDING

Submission of the above-entitled application, as amended, having been set aside, the matter having been reopened for further hearing, such further hearing having been held and the reopened matter having now been submitted for decision,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:


1. That Southwest Water Company, a corporation, shall continue to carry out its water service improvement program for the La Sierra district as outlined in Exhibit No. 5 of the original proceeding and as ordered by paragraph No. 4 of Decision No. 58138 and as set forth in its engineering and economic study filed in compliance with paragraph No. 5 of Decision No. 58138.

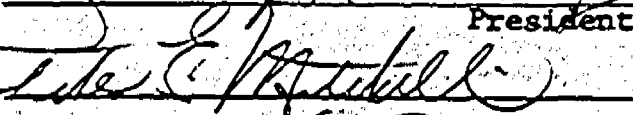
2. That applicant shall continue to file in writing with the Commission reports of its progress in carrying out its


improvement program as such reports were required to be filed by ordering paragraph No. 4 of Decision No. 58138.

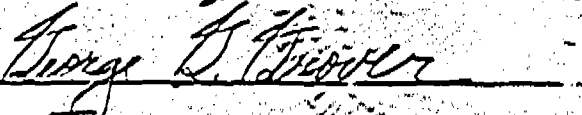
The effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date hereof.

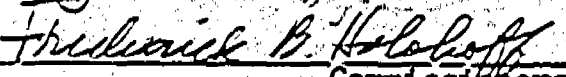
Dated at San Francisco, California, this 7th day of February, 1961.



President








Commissioners