

**ORIGINAL**Decision No. 68861

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of  
 SOUTHERN COUNTIES GAS COMPANY OF  
 CALIFORNIA under Section 1002 of  
 the Public Utilities Code for a  
 Certificate that public convenience  
 and necessity require the exercise  
 of the rights and privileges granted  
 by Ordinance No. 308 of the City of  
 Fountain Valley, California.  
 (Gas)

Application No. 47409  
 (Filed March 11, 1965)

O P I N I O N

Southern Counties Gas Company of California, in this proceeding, requests a certificate of public convenience and necessity to exercise the rights and privileges of a franchise granted by the City of Fountain Valley, permitting the installation, maintenance, and use of a gas distribution and transmission system in the streets of said city.

The franchise referred to, a copy of which is attached to the application and designated as Exhibit A, was granted by the city in accordance with the Franchise Act of 1937 and is of indeterminate duration. A fee is payable annually to the city equivalent to 2 per cent of the gross receipts arising from the use, operation, or possession of the franchise, but not less than 1 per cent of the gross annual receipts from sales of gas within the limits of the city under said franchise.

The costs incurred by applicant in obtaining the franchise are stated to have been \$358.00, which amount does not include costs incident to this application.

Applicant has served gas in and about the City of Fountain Valley without competition for many years. As of December 31, 1964, it served 2674 customers within the city from approximately 43.37 miles of gas mains therein. No objection to the granting of the requested certificate has been received and a public hearing is not necessary.

After consideration the Commission finds that public convenience and necessity require the exercise by applicant of the right, privilege and franchise granted to applicant by Ordinance No. 308 of the City of Fountain Valley.

The certificate of public convenience and necessity herein granted is subject to the following provisions of law:

1. The Commission shall have no power to authorize the capitalization of the franchise involved herein or this certificate of public convenience and necessity or the right to own, operate or enjoy such franchise or certificate of public convenience and necessity in excess of the amount (exclusive of any tax or annual charge) actually paid to the State or to a political subdivision thereof as the consideration for the grant of such franchise, certificate of public convenience and necessity or right.
2. The franchise involved herein shall never be given any value before any court or other public authority in any proceeding of any character in excess of the cost to the grantee of the necessary publication and any other sum paid by it to the municipality therefor at the time of the acquisition thereof.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that a certificate of public convenience and necessity is granted to Southern Counties Gas Company of California to exercise the rights and privileges granted by the City of Fountain Valley by Ordinance No. 308, adopted October 19, 1964.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 13th day of April, 1965.

Frederick B. Halliday  
President

George L. Howell  
Auditor

William L. Bennett  
Commissioners