

Decision No. 69962

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
for authorization to abandon a
portion of its Tuolumne Water
System, Sonora District.
(Water)

Application No. 47873
(Filed September 3, 1965)

O P I N I O N

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (hereinafter called P. G. & E.) seeks an order permitting it to abandon a portion of its Tuolumne Water System, Sonora District, in Tuolumne County.

The record indicates that P. G. & E.'s Tuolumne Water System, Sonora District, consists of approximately 79 miles of canals and ditches and seven regulating and standby reservoirs. The portion of the system which P. G. & E. seeks to abandon consists primarily of 2,242 feet of Racetrack Canal, which portion is principally an open ditch with a number of short piped sections. The verified application avers that the portion of the system sought to be abandoned serves two customers with untreated water for irrigation purposes; that this portion of the system represents a net investment of \$2,099; that during the years 1962 to 1964 P. G. & E.'s earnings on this portion of the system show an average net loss of \$1,074 per year; that if permission to abandon the facilities under consideration is not granted, it will be necessary for P. G. & E. to spend between \$3,000 and \$5,000 to maintain satisfactory service to the two customers; that the Gibbs Ranch Water Company (hereinafter referred to as Gibbs) is a public utility water company authorized to serve the area in which P. G. & E. seeks to abandon the facilities

in question; that Gibbs has agreed to serve the two P.G. & E. customers on the portion of the system sought to be abandoned; that service by Gibbs to the two customers would not result in any increase in rates and that the two customers have no objection to the proposed abandonment by P. G. & E. and receiving service from Gibbs.

The application also avers that the area surrounding the facilities sought to be abandoned is being subdivided into lots for suburban residences; that Gibbs will provide domestic water service to these residences; that Racetrack Reservoir, one of the facilities sought to be abandoned, is located in the midst of a residential tract and is unsightly and aesthetically displeasing; and that if the requested abandonment is permitted this condition would be eliminated. P. G. & E. attached to the application a letter from Gibbs indicating it would give service to the two customers and letters from the customers indicating no objection to the application.

The Commission makes the following findings and conclusion.

Findings of Fact

1. A public hearing is not necessary in this matter.
2. The abandonment of that portion of P. G. & E.'s Tuolumne Water System, Sonora District, more particularly described in Exhibit B attached to Application No. 47873, would not be adverse to the public interest.

Conclusion of Law

P. G. & E. should be authorized to abandon the facilities of its Tuolumne Water System, Sonora District, more particularly described in Exhibit B attached to Application No. 47873.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Within six months after the effective date of this order Pacific Gas and Electric Company may abandon the public utility water facilities of its Tuolumne Water System, Sonora District, more particularly described in Exhibit B attached to Application No. 47873; provided, however, said facilities shall not be abandoned until Gibbs Ranch Water Company has commenced service to customers C. V. Sheatsley and J. A. Kamerschen.

2. Pacific Gas and Electric Company shall, on or before the date of actual discontinuance of service, refund all customers' deposits and advances for construction relating to the portion of the system authorized to be abandoned, if any, which are subject to refund, and within thirty days thereafter shall notify this Commission of any such action which is taken.

3. If the authority herein granted is exercised, Pacific Gas and Electric Company shall notify this Commission in writing of the date service is actually discontinued. Said notification shall be filed within thirty days after discontinuance of service.

4. Upon due compliance with all of the foregoing requirements of this order, Pacific Gas and Electric Company shall stand relieved of all further public utility obligations and liabilities in

connection with the operation of the portion of its public utility water system herein authorized to be abandoned and from which service is discontinued.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 16th day of NOVEMBER, 1965.

Fredrick B. Holbeck President
George G. Hoover
Augustine
William C. Bennett

Commissioners

Commissioner Peter E. Mitchell, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.