

Decision No. 70702

ORIGINAL

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 1003 of the)
Public Utilities Code for a certificate)
that public convenience and necessity)
require the exercise of the rights and)
privileges granted by a franchise)
ordinance to be acquired from the)
County of Orange, California.)

Application No. 48347
(Filed March 28, 1966)

O P I N I O N

Southern Counties Gas Company of California, in this proceeding under Section 1003 of the Public Utilities Code, seeks an order by the Commission declaring that it will, upon supplemental application, issue a certificate of public convenience and necessity to applicant to exercise the rights and privileges of a franchise, which it contemplates securing from the County of Orange, permitting the installation and use of a gas distribution and transmission system upon the public roads of said county.

The application states that it is expected that the franchise referred to will be indeterminate in duration and provide for a fee payable to the county equivalent to 2 percent of the gross annual receipts to applicant arising from the use of the franchise.

Applicant presently operates a gas system in the County of Orange under two franchises, one of which was granted for a term of 50 years, effective June 1, 1916. The application states that the new franchise to be acquired will supersede the two existing franchises, will renew existing rights and will cover the entire county.

Primary facilities of applicant are located throughout most of the county. It is stated that no other gas utility exists in Orange County with which applicant is likely to compete. At the end of 1965 applicant had served 320,000 customers within the county from approximately 3,200 miles of gas pipelines therein. No objection to the issuance of the order requested 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 which may be secured by applicant from the County of Orange, under such terms and conditions that may be designated by the Commission after applicant has obtained the contemplated franchise. A public hearing is not necessary.

We conclude that an order should be entered declaring that upon supplemental application, after applicant has obtained the proposed franchise, the Commission will issue a certificate of public convenience and necessity upon such terms and conditions as it may then designate.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Upon supplemental application herein a certificate of public convenience and necessity will be issued to Southern Counties Gas Company of California, upon such terms and conditions as the Commission may designate, to exercise the rights and privileges that may be granted by the County of Orange by a franchise applicant proposes to secure.

2. A copy of the franchise obtained by applicant shall be attached to such supplemental application.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17th day of MAY, 1966.

Frederick B. Hallock
President
Richard E. Atchell
Attorney

William L. Burnett
Commissioners

Commissioner George G. Grover
present but not voting.