

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 71712

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's own motion into the operations, rates, rules, regulations, tariff schedules, service, facilities, equipment, contracts and practices of BOUQUET CANYON WATER COMPANY.

Case No. 8228
(Filed July 21, 1965)

Investigation on the Commission's own motion into the operations, rates, rules, regulations, tariff schedules, service, facilities, equipment, contracts and practices of SOLEMINT WATER COMPANY.

Case No. 8229
(Filed July 21, 1965)

(Appearances are set forth in Appendix A)

O P I N I O N

An additional day of public hearing herein was held before Examiner Catey at Newhall on November 1, 1966, for review of respondents' compliance with previous orders herein and evaluation of respondents' master plan for future growth. Six of the original 34 appearances for interested parties were present, along with two new such appearances and the appearances for respondents and for the Commission staff. Testimony was presented by the owner of a parcel of land outside respondents' service area, by three of respondents' customers in the Sand Canyon area, by an engineer for the County of Los Angeles, by an engineer from the Commission staff, and by respondents' president. The matters were submitted on November 1, 1966.

System Additions and Improvements

Decision No. 69808, dated October 19, 1965, and Decision No. 70294, dated February 1, 1966, in these proceedings, required respondents to install certain plant additions, to initiate specific system improvements and to prepare a master plan for future growth.

Respondents have been unable to comply with paragraph 1.(h) of the order in Decision No. 69808, which requires the construction of additional storage facilities to establish a new Sand Canyon 2000 Zone. A long series of delays have been due to respondents' difficulties in obtaining an undisputed right to construct storage and boosting facilities on the Sand Canyon site originally planned. At various times respondents have had a tank ordered and on hand and had commenced grading of the tank site, only to be blocked by some new obstacle.

Heeding this Commission's admonition in Decision No. 70294, placing respondents on notice that they would be expected to seek other means of effecting compliance if they were unable to install a tank at the planned site, respondents have arranged for an alternate tank site about fifty feet higher in elevation than the one originally planned. Respondents request modification of the Commission's orders to permit utilization of the new site. The Commission staff engineer testified that either site would provide satisfactory service. The order which follows will permit the use of either site.

Representatives of some of the Sand Canyon customers charge that the various delays in the installation of the Sand Canyon tank were deliberate attempts by respondents to avoid the installation. We find that the record does not support that

conclusion. Even after the Commission staff's preliminary study indicated that the Sand Canyon tank was not one of the more urgent improvements needed, respondents agreed to proceed with its construction. Also, the grading of the original site would have been a rather illogical move if respondents had not intended to install a tank. The delays resulted primarily from either the actions of others or the failure of others to act.

In addition to the increased overall system storage capacity to be made available from the new Sand Canyon tank, respondents have arranged for interconnection with a 4,000,000-gallon reservoir owned but not fully utilized by the nearby Valencia Water Company. Any water used by respondents is to be replaced or exchanged for other water delivered to Valencia by respondents.

Respondents expressed concern that their new pumps with natural gas engines technically may not constitute compliance with paragraph 2 of the order in Decision No. 70294. That order permitted respondents to provide nonelectric standby booster pumps "at" all booster stations in lieu of the portable booster required by Decision No. 69808. Actually, in some of the zones, the natural gas units installed by respondents were not "at" each station, but were located so that each supplemental unit could provide standby service for one or more boosters in the same zone. In other instances, a well pump equipped with a natural gas engine acts as standby by pumping directly into a zone normally served by one or more booster pumps. The order which follows provides the necessary flexibility to cover such situations.

Master Plan

Respondents have filed herein the master plan required by Decision No. 69808. A Commission staff engineer testified that he

had reviewed the plan and had concluded that it would provide a good framework for future planning. It includes a considerable amount of detail, yet is flexible enough to cope with unanticipated timing or location of subdivision development. Respondents indicated that the existence of the master plan already has avoided future enlargement or replacement of facilities installed to serve specific areas, by causing the original design of such facilities to accommodate future growth.

Findings and Conclusions

The Commission finds that:

1. A tank located at a point approximately 2,000 to 2,050 feet in elevation is suitable for respondents' new Sand Canyon tank.
2. There have been unavoidable delays in construction of the new Sand Canyon tank.
3. Respondents' booster and well pumps powered with natural gas engines constitute adequate standby facilities for respondents' electric booster pumps.

The Commission concludes that its previous orders herein should be modified and clarified as set forth in the order which follows.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Paragraph 1.(h) of Decision No. 69808 is modified to permit the installation of the new Sand Canyon tank at a point approximately 2,000 to 2,050 feet in elevation.
2. An extension of time to January 31, 1967 is granted for completion of the Sand Canyon tank referred to in the preceding paragraph, and the filing in this proceeding of notice of completion.

3. Paragraph 2 of the order in Decision No. 70294 shall be construed to mean that respondents shall maintain standby pumps, not dependent upon electric power, that will provide adequate service in the event of temporary shutdown of any of respondents' booster pumps.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 20th day of DECEMBER, 1966

John E. ...
President

Frederick B. ...

August ...

Commissioners

Commissioner George G. Grover, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

Commissioner William M. Bennett, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

APPENDIX A

LIST OF APPEARANCES

FOR THE COMMISSION STAFF: B. A. Peeters and E. J. Texeira.

FOR RESPONDENTS: Knapp, Gill, Hibbert & Stevens, by Karl K. Roos.

INTERESTED PARTIES: Ralph R. Bell, for Sulphur Springs Union School District; Betty Berger, for herself; Edward L. Blincoe, for himself and for Utility Users' League of California; J. P. Bradley and James F. McKay, for Dominguez Water Corporation; Champ Butler, for Garland-Butler Construction Company; William G. Coskran and Francis H. O'Neill, for Princess Park Estates, Inc.; Joseph C. Cwik, for himself and 40 neighbors; V. C. DeLapp, for Los Angeles County Fire Department; John L. Fremon, for Fremon Co., Inc.; W. Tracey Gaffey, for Saugus Union School District; Marvin B. Hale, for Pacific Fire Rating Bureau; John Dale Hight, for Sunshine Homeowners Association; W. H. Hopke, Kaye B. Swan and John L. Williams, for North Oaks Homeowners Association; H. R. Junkin, for U.S. Army Post Engineers; Haig Kehiayan and John C. Keenan, for Woodlands Sand Canyon Association; Harold W. Kennedy, by Martin E. Weekes and James T. Rostron, for County of Los Angeles; Neville R. Lewis and Carl H. Wiggernhorn, for E. W. Loughland Company, Woodlands Sand Canyon Development Corporation, H. & R. Development Corporation, Woodlands Sand Canyon Sales Corporation, Woodlands Sand Canyon Investment Company, and Woodlands Sand Canyon Construction Company; Robert K. Light, for Pacific Coast Properties, Inc., Emblem Homes, Inc., Bouquet Land Company, and Signature Development Company; Kenneth G. Lynch, for Santa Clarita Valley Joint Progress Committee; Edward Mallet, for himself; Elliott Maltzman, for Halell Corporation; W. V. Mueller, for himself; Ray Rainwater, for Princess Park Estates, Inc.; Assemblyman Newton Russell, for himself and constituents; Charles L. Stuart, for Southern California Water Company; Steven L. Swartz, for Golden Triangle Industrial Park; Sam M. Thompson, Jr., for Council of Home Owner and Property Owner Associations; Christian Peter Van Eunen, for himself; William R. Willard, for Iron Canyon Property Owners Association.