

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 72698

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. 379 of the City of)
Ojai, California.)
(Gas)

Application No. 49433
(Filed June 5, 1967)

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 Ojai, 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 percent of the gross receipts arising from the use, operation, or possession of the franchise, but not less than 1 percent 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 \$413.99, which amount does not include costs incident to this application.

No objection to the granting of the requested certificate has been entered. Furthermore, this utility or its predecessors have, for many years, served gas in and about the City of Ojai without competition. As of December 31, 1966, it served 1,970 customers within the city from approximately 26.06 miles of gas mains therein.

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. 379 of the City of Ojai. A public hearing is not necessary.

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

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California to exercise the rights and privileges granted by the City of Ojai, by Ordinance No. 379, adopted March 27, 1967.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 6th day of JULY, 1967.

[Signature]
President

[Signature]

William M. Bennett

[Signature]
Commissioners

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