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ORIGINAL

Decision No. 75869

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
Earl A. LaPorte dba Redwood Lodge
Water System to abandon service or
transfer system.

) Application No. 51031
(Filed April 24, 1969)

OPINION AND ORDER

Earl A. La Porte, doing business as Redwood Lodge Water System, seeks authority to transfer his water system to his customers and to be relieved of his public utility obligations. Exhibit A to the application is a statement, signed by all nine of applicant's customers, stating that they are already operating the system and have no objection to the granting of the application.

Decision No. 68939, dated April 20, 1965, in Case No. 8027, discusses the history of the Redwood Lodge Water System. That system was installed in about 1915 to supply a lodge and surrounding guest houses, located in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Santa Cruz County. Around 1930, the lodge and some of the guest houses were destroyed by fire. A Melvin P. Fitzgerald purchased the property and subsequently sold the remaining guest houses and some lots. Applicant later acquired the system from Fitzgerald and was found, in Decision No. 68939, to be operating a public utility water system. Because of inadequate facilities, applicant was precluded from extending the water system to serve other than the existing nine customers.

Applicant states that he has been in ill health for the past several years, is currently in a rest home and has little or no source of income. Since about February, 1968, applicant's customers have been operating the system. Applicant proposes to transfer the system, without charge, to his customers. The system thereafter will continue to be operated by those customers, as a mutual water company.

The Commission finds that the proposed transfer is not adverse to the public interest and concludes that the application should be granted. A public hearing is not necessary.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Applicant Earl A. La Porte may donate and transfer to his customers the water system known as Redwood Lodge Water System, located in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Santa Cruz County.
2. Applicant shall return to customers any refundable deposits made to establish credit.
3. Applicant shall file in this proceeding written notice of (a) the refunding of all deposits and (b) the date of transfer. A true copy of the instrument or instruments of transfer shall be attached to the written notice.
4. Upon compliance with all of the conditions of this order, applicant shall stand relieved of all of his public utility obligations in the area served by the transferred system.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 15th day of JULY, 1969.

William Sproule Jr.
President
Augustine
Frederick P. Morrissey
J. H. ...
Commissioners