Decision No. 80133

# ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's own motion into the ownership, status, operations, service, equipment, facilities, rates, rules, tariff schedules and records of Raymond Water System; Royal Oaks Water System; Vilare Water Company, a corporation; Coarsegold Highlands Water System; Fred Schram; Wilma Schram; William Mosgrove; Maurice E. Smith; Richard Maddalena and Joyce Maddalena.

Case No. 9283 (Filed October 19, 1971; Amended November 16, 1971)

Maurice E. Smith, Attorney at Law, for Raymond
Heights Water Company, Royal Oaks Water System,
Vilare Water Company, Coarsegold Highlands
Water System, William Mosgrove and Maurice E.
Smith; and Frank Schram, for Fred Schram and
Wilma Schram; respondents.
Rufus G. Theyer and John S. Fick, Attorneys at

Law, end Sam E. Winegar, for the Commission staff.

# OPINION

On October 19, 1971, the Commission instituted the investigation herein for the purposes of determining:

- "1. Whether respondents Raymond Water System, Royal Oaks Water System and Vilare Water Company, or any of them, have failed to furnish and maintain such adequate, efficient, just and reasonable service and facilities as are necessary to promote the safety, health, comfort and convenience of its customers in violation of Public Utilities Code Section 451 and the Commission's General Order No. 103.
- "2. Whether respondent Vilare Water Company is operating in violation of its filed tariffs and thereby in violation of Public Utilities Code Section 491.
- "3. Whether respondents Raymond Water System, Royal Oaks Water System, Vilare Water Company, and Coarsegold Highlands Water System, or any of them,

have failed to file annual reports of their operations as required by the Commission's General Order No. 104-A and are thereby in violation of Public Utilities Code Sections 581, 582 and 584.

- "4. Whether respondents Raymond Water System, Royal Oaks Water System, Vilare Water Company and Coarsegold Highlands Water System, or any of them, should be subject to penalties as provided for in the Commission's General Order No. 104-A, Commission Resolution FA-503, dated November 4, 1970, and Public Utilities Code Sections 2107, 2108 and 2109.
- "5- Whether respondent Raymond Water System was sold by respondents Fred Schram and Wilma Schram to respondent Maurice E. Smith in violation of Public Utilities Code Section 851.
- Whether respondent Coarsegold Water System was sold by respondent William Mosgrove to Maurice E. Smith in violation of Public Utilities Code Section 851.
- "7. Whether the capital stock of respondent Vilare Water Company is owned by Maurice E. Smith.
- "8. Whether respondents, or any of them, should be ordered to cease and desist from any unlawful operations or practices.
- "9. Whether any other order or orders that may be appropriate should be entered in the lawful exercise of the Commission's jurisdiction."

On November 16, 1971 the Commission issued an amendment to the order instituting investigation for the purposes of determining:

"Whether respondents Fred Schram, Wilma Schram, Maurice E. Smith, Richard Maddalena, Joyce Maddalena and William Mosgrove, or any of themmay be, or may have been, parties to unauthorized transfers of a public utility or its property in violation of Public Utilities Code Section 851."

Copies of the amendment were personally served upon respondents Richard Maddalena and Joyce Maddalena on November 19, 1971.

Public hearings were held before Commissioner Holmes and Examiner Cline in Madera on November 2, 1971 and January 12 and 13, 1972.

cation or signature designating the party who submitted it.

The counsel for the Commission staff on February 23, 1972, five days after the receipt by the Commission of the document purporting to be late-filed Exhibit No. 27 filed a motion to deny Exhibit No. 27 from being admitted in evidence on the following grounds:

- Exhibit No. 27 was not timely filed because February 14, 1972, was the last day on which it could have been filed pursuant to the order of the presiding officer herein, and it was not mailed until February 17, 1972, and was not received by the Commission until February 18, 1972.
- 2. Exhibit No. 27 contains no signature or verification whatsoever. It is merely titled with the name of Raymond Water Works, Royal Oaks Water System, Vilare Water Company, Inc., and Coarsegold Highlands Water System. There is no indication who prepared the document, under what conditions or circumstances it was prepared and who transmitted

- 3. By grant deed dated January 1, 1964 and recorded in Madera County on June 24, 1964, Fred Schram and Wilma Schram transferred to their son, Peter Frank Schram, and his wife, Judith Arlene Schram, the real property underlying the Raymond Water Works together with the Raymond Water Works. No authorization for such transfer was obtained from this Commission pursuant to Section 851 of the California Public Utilities Code.
- 4. Fred Schram is advanced in years, retired and no longer capable of operating the Raymond Water Works system by himself. His interests in this proceeding are represented by his son, Peter Frank Schram.
- In 1967 (1) Peter Frank Schram and Judith Arlene Schram, his wife, (2) Richard Maddalena and Joyce Maddalena, his wife, and (3) Maurice E. Smith, or his nominee, Raymond Heights Water Company, entered into a three-way transfer arrangement, all subject to the approval of and authorization by this Commission, under which Richard Maddalena and Joyce Maddalena agreed to transfer certain lands having a total sale price of \$52,500 to Peter Frank Schram and Judith Arlene Schram in exchange for the land and other properties of Raymond Water Works having a total sale price of \$47,500 (comprised of \$30,500 for land and \$17,000 for other water system properties). As the land and other water system properties of Raymond Water Works were subject to mortgages in the amount of \$12,000, Peter and Judith Schram's equity therein was \$35,500 (\$47,500 - \$12,000). In addition to transferring their equity of \$35,500 in the land and other water system properties of Raymond Water Works, Peter and Judith Schram were to pay Richard and Joyce Maddalena \$17,000 in cash to total the \$52,500 sale price for the land of Richard and Joyce Maddalena. Upon acquiring the land and other water system properties of Raymond Water Works from Peter and Judith Schram at a sale price of \$47,500, Richard and Joyce Maddalena were to sell said properties to Raymond Heights Water Company for \$47,500 of which \$30,500 was for land and \$17,000 was for the other water system properties. In addition to the foregoing proposed transfers, (1) Fred Schram and Wilma Schram and (2) Raymond Heights Water Company entered into an agreement of sale of Raymond

- 19. The present condition of Raymond Water Works system is such that the system is not adequate for the protection of the health and safety of the system's users and is not dependable for the delivery of potable water. The system's water supply is not adequately sealed
- water supply and storage.
- 21. To improve the Raymond Water Works physical plant to the standards outlined in General Order No. 103 would require a larger capital investment than can be justified by the revenue from its present 44 customers.
- 22. The Commission staff suggests a midrange approach to improving the Raymond Water Works system by requiring the installation of a 50,000 gallon steel storage tank, another well, sanitary sealing of the present wells and chlorination of the well east of Merced Street. These improvements would require an average increase amounting to about \$2.50 per month per customer.
- 23. The minimum improvements required to the Raymond Water Works system would include the repair of the existing 13,000 gallon concrete storage tank and the provision of one new well with chlorinator, sanitary sealing of existing wells, and a chlorinator for the well which is east of Merced Street. No rate adjustment is suggested in the event such minimum improvements to the system are required by the Commission-
- 24. The piping of the Raymond Water Works is so old as to have very little residual value. The water mains will have to be replaced over a period of time and until they are replaced, the maintenance costs for the water plant will be higher than normal.

- 25. The staff recommends that meters should be installed for the 17 flat rate customers in order to place all customers under the same discipline as to the use of water and to generate more revenue.
- 26. The staff further recommends that Raymond Water Works should be required to file tariff area and system maps which are acceptable to the Commission.

#### D. Annual Reports of Raymond Water Works

- 27. Annual reports as required by Sections 581, 582, and 584 of the Public Utilities Code and General Order No. 104-A of the Public Utilities Commission have not been filed by Raymond Water Works, and letters from the Commission Secretary regarding the delinquent Annual Reports have not been answered by Raymond Water Works or Raymond Heights Water Company.
- 28. No extensions of time have been granted by the Commission to Raymond Water Works or Raymond Heights Water System for the filing of Annual Reports.
- 29. Annual Reports of Raymond Water Works are delinquent as follows:

Annual Report for Year	Delinquent Since		
1967	March 31, 1968		
1968	March 31, 1969		
1969	March 31, 1970		
1970	March 31, 1971		

## II. Royal Oaks Water System

- A- Ownership, Control, Operation and Management of Royal Oaks Water System
- 29. By Decision No. 72838 issued August 1, 1967, in Application No. 49395 this Commission authorized Nan M. De Vaney to transfer and Maurice E. Smith to acquire the water system and certificate of Royal Oaks Water System.

Coarsegold Highlands Water System by William Mosgrove to Maurice E. Smith appears in the record and no approval for such transfer has been requested from or granted by the Commission.

45. Maurice E. Smith is the attorney for and principal management representative of William Mosgrove, doing business as Coarsegold Highlands Water System.

## B. Annual Reports of Coarsegold Highlands Water System

- 46. Annual Reports, other than the Annual Report for the period April 7, 1967 to and including December 31, 1967, due March 31, 1968 and late-filed on September 6, 1968, have not been filed by Coarsegold Highlands Water System, as required by Sections 581, 582 and 584 of the Public Utilities Code and General Order No. 104-A of the Public Utilities Commission and latters from the Commission Secretary regarding the delinquent Annual Reports have not been answered by Coarsegold Highlands Water System.
- 47. No extensions of time have been granted by the Commission to Coarsegold Highlands Water System for the filing of its Annual Reports for the years 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970.
- 48. Annual Reports of Coarsegold Highlands Water System are delinquent as follows:

Annual Report for Year	Delinquent Since		
1968	March 31, 1969		
1969	March 31, 1970		
1970	March 31, 1971		

Based upon the foregoing findings of fact, the Commission concludes as follows:

## I. Raymond Water Works

1. The purported sale and transfer of the property necessary or useful in the performance of the public utility obligations of Raymond Water Works (a) by Fred and Wilma Schram, his wife, to Peter Frank Schram and Judith Arlene Schram, his wife, (b) by Peter Frank Schram and Judith Schram, his wife, to Richard Maddalena and Joyce

Maddalena, his wife, (c) by Richard Maddalena and Joyce Maddalena, his wife, to Raymond Heights Water Company, a corporation, and (d) by Fred Schram and Wilma Schram, his wife, to Raymond Heights Water Company, a corporation, are void under the provisions of Section 851 of the Public Utilities Code.

- 2. The property necessary and useful in the performance of the public utility obligations of Raymond Water Works is still that of Fred and Wilma Schram, his wife, as are the primary attendant public utility obligations.
- 3. (a) Peter Frank Schram and Judith Arlene Schram, his wife, (b) Richard Maddalena and Joyce Maddalena, his wife, and (c) Raymond Heights Water Company through the transfers or agreements to transfer to them of the property necessary and useful in the performance of the public utility obligations of Raymond Water Works acquired no greater rights than those of a transferee or vendee, successively in possession, under an executed contract of sale. As regards the public utility obligations of Raymond Water Works said parties have been and are agents of Fred Schram and Wilma Schram, his wife, doing business as Raymond Water Works, during the time they were or are in possession of the property necessary and useful in the performance of the public utility obligations of Raymond Water Works. (See R. J. Baunhauser, 70 Cal. P.U.C. 783.)
- 4. Maurice E. Smith is the attorney for, president, and principal managing officer of Raymond Heights Water Company.
- 5. The public interest does not require the Commission to interfere with the possession of the Raymond Water Works water system by Raymond Heights Water Company or with its status as the operator and manager thereof, as agent for Fred Schram and Wilma Schram, his wife, doing business as Raymond Water Works.
- 6. (a) Fred Schram and Wilma Schram, his wife, doing business as Raymond Water Works, (b) Peter Frank Schram and Judith Arlene Schram, his wife, as agents for Fred and Wilma Schram, doing business as Raymond Water Works, (c) Raymond Heights Water Company, as agent

for Fred Schram and Wilma Schram, his wife, doing business as Raymond Water Works, and (d) Maurice E. Smith, as attorney for and president and principal managing officer of Raymond Heights Water Company, jointly and severally should be ordered to:

- (1) Repair the existing 13,000 gallon concrete storage tank of Raymond Water Works to prevent the intrusion of foreign matter into the water supply.
- (2) Submit a plan for the provision of a new well with an automatic chlorinator to supplement the existing water supply of Raymond Water Works.
- (3) Seal the existing wells to prevent the intrusion of foreign matter into the water supply of Raymond Water Works.
- (4) Install an automatic chlorinator for the well located east of Merced Street in Raymond.
- (5) Regulate the chlorination of the water supply of Raymond Water Works so that the water distributed to the customers meets the standards of the Department of Public Health and nevertheless does not contain an excessive amount of chlorine.
- (6) Submit a plan for the installation of meters for the 17 customers of Raymond Water Works who are presently being served under flat rates.
- (7) File the Annual Reports of Raymond Water Works for the years 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970.
- (8) Pay fines to this Commission due as of December 31, 1971 for failure to file the Annual Reports for the years 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970 with this Commission as follows:

Annuel Report for the Year	Amount of Fines Due for Failure to File Reports		
1967	\$ 50.00		
1968	50.00		
1969	50-00		
1970	200.00		
Total fines due as of December 31, 1971	\$350.00		

#### II. Royal Oaks Water System

- 7. Maurice E. Smith, owner and operator of Royal Oaks Water System should be ordered to:
  - (a) Submit a plan for the provision of an additional well to supplement the existing water supply available to Royal Oaks Water System.
  - (b) Pay fines to this Commission due as of December 31, 1971, for the late-filing of Annual Reports with this Commission as follows:

Annual Report for the Year	Fines Due for Late Filing of Annual Reports		
1969	\$ 50.00		
1970	125.00		
Total fines due as of December 31, 1971	\$175.00		

## III. Vilare Water Company

- 8. Vilare Water Company, a corporation, and Maurice E. Smith, its attorney and principal management representative, jointly and severally should be ordered to:
  - (a) File with this Commission current tariff and service area maps for the entire water system of Vilare Water Company.
  - (b) Pay fines to this Commission due as of December 31, 1971, for the late filing of the 1969 Annual Report and the failure to file the 1970 Annual Report as follows:

Amount of Fine Due for Late Filing of Report		
\$50.00		
Amount of Fine Due for Failure to File Report		
\$200.00		
\$250.00		

# IV. Coarsegold Highlands Water System

9. William Mosgrove, doing business as Coarsegold Highlands Water Systems, and Maurice E. Smith the attorney for and principal management representative of William Mosgrove, doing business as Coarsegold Highlands Water System, should be ordered jointly and severally to pay fines to the Commission due as of December 31, 1971, for the late filing of the 1967 Annual Report and for the failure to file the 1968, 1969 and 1970 Annual Reports as follows:

Annual Report for the Year	Amount of Fine Due for Late Filing of Report			
1967	\$ 50.00			
	Amount of Fine Due for the Failure to File Report			
1968	\$ 50-00			
1969	50-00			
1970	200-00			
Total fines due as of Dec.	31, 1971 \$350.00			

ORDER

#### IT IS ORDERED that:

# I. Raymond Water Works

1. (a) Fred and Wilma Schram, his wife, doing business as Raymond Water Works, (b) Peter Frank Schram and Judith Schram, his wife, as agents for Fred Schram and Wilma Schram, doing business as Raymond Water Works, (c) Raymond Heights Water Company, a corporation, as agent for Fred Schram and Wilma Schram, doing business as Raymond Water Works, and (d) Maurice E. Smith, as attorney for and president and principal managing officer of Raymond Heights Water Company, jointly and severally, are ordered to:

C. 9283 JM (1) Seal forthwith the wells, storage tanks and water system of Raymond Water Works so as to prevent the intrusion from animals and of foreign matter into the water supply and install a self-chlorinating system and perform maintenance and make all repairs sufficient to make the system safe and sanitary for those using the system, in accordance with the recommendations of the Madera County Department of Health. (2) File with this Commission within sixty days after the effective date of this order a certificate by the Madera County Department of Health that sufficient maintenance and repairs to the system have been made so that the system is safe and sanitary and is in compliance with the requirements of the Madera County Department of Health so as to provide safe and potable drinking water to the users of the Raymond Water Works. Submit to this Commission within sixty days from the effective date of this order, a plan and schedule for augmentation of sources of water supply and storage facilities for the water supply with automatic chlorination and for the installation of meters for the flat rate customers of Raymond Water Works. File with this Commission, within sixty days from the effective date of this order, current tariff and service area maps for the entire system of Raymond Water Works. Pay to this Commission by June 30, 1973 the fines in the amount of \$350.00 which were due as of December 31, 1971, for the failure to file the Annual Reports for the years 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970, and the fines which accrue subsequent to December 31, 1971, until said reports are filed with this Commission. (6) Forthwith file with this Commission all delinquent and currently due Annual Reports of Raymond Water Works. Maintain its accounting records on a calendar year basis in conformance with the Uniform System of Accounts for Class D Water Utilities prescribed by this Commission. Roval Oaks Water System Maurice E. Smith, doing business as Royal Oaks Water System, is ordered to: (a) Submit to this Commission within sixty days from the date of this order, a plan and schedule for augmentation of the water supply and storage facilities of Royal Oaks Water System. -27C. 9283 JM Pay to this Commission by June 30, 1973 fines in the total amount of \$175.00 which were due as of December 31, 1971, for the late filing of the Annual Reports for the years 1969 and 1970. Forthwith file with this Commission the Annual Report for the year 1971. (d) Maintain its accounting records on a calendar year basis in conformance with the Uniform System of Accounts for Class D Water Utilities prescribed by this Commission. III. Vilare Water Company Vilare Water Company, a corporation, and Maurice E. Smith, its attorney and principal management representative, jointly and severally, are ordered to: (a) File with this Commission within sixty days from the effective date of this order, current tariff and service area maps for the entire system of Vilare Water Company. Pay to this Commission by June 30, 1973, fines in the total amount of \$250.00 which were due as of December 31, 1971, for the late filing of the Annual Report for the year 1969 and for the failure to file the Annual Report for 1970, and the fines which may accrue subsequent to December 31, 1971, until the Annual Report for 1970 is filed with this Commission. Forthwith file with this Commission all delinquent and currently due Annual Reports of Vilare Water Company. Maintain its accounting records on a calendar year basis in conformance with the Uniform System of Accounts for Class D Water Utilities prescribed by this Commission. IV. Coarsegold Highlands Water System William Mosgrove, doing business as Coarsegold Highlands Water System, and Maurice E. Smith, the attorney for and principal management representative of William Mosgrove, doing business as Coarsegold Highlands Water System, jointly and severally, are ordered to: (a) Pay to this Commission by June 30, 1973, fines in the total amount of \$350.00 which were due as of December 31, 1971, for the late filing of the Annual Report of Coarsegold Highlands Water System for the year 1967, and the failure to file the Annual Reports of -18-

- (b) Fred Schram and Wilma Schram, his wife, doing business as Raymond Water Works.
- (c) Peter Frank Schram and Judith Arlene Schram, his wife, as agents for Fred Schram and Wilma Schram, his wife, doing business as Raymond Water Works.
- (d) Richard Maddalena and Joyce Maddalena, his wife.
- (e) William Mosgrove, doing business as Coarsegold Highlands Water System.

The effective date of this order as to each of said parties upon whom personal service is directed to be made by the Secretary shall be twenty days after the date such personal service is caused to be made by the Secretary.

	Dated at	San Francisco,	California,	this of	6 day	
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