

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 80259

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
RALPH L. CRIDDLE, SR. and MARGARET P.
CRIDDLE, husband and wife, doing business
as OAK PARK COURT WATER CO., and
CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY, a
corporation, for an order authorizing
(1) the sale and transfer to California
Water Service Company of the water
distribution system and certificate of
public convenience and necessity of
Oak Park Court Water Co., (2) the
discontinuance of service by Oak Park
Court Water Co. in the territory now
served by it, and (3) the commencement
of service in said territory by Calif-
ornia Water Service Company at the
rates and in accordance with the rules
applicable in the balance of California
Water Service Company's Stockton district.

Application No. 53338
(Filed May 18, 1972)

O P I N I O N

Ralph L. Criddle, Sr., and Margaret P. Criddle, husband and wife, doing business as Oak Park Court Water Co., request authority to sell and transfer, and California Water Service Company, a corporation, requests authority to purchase and acquire a public utility water system located in the City of Stockton.

The water system covers approximately 11 acres and serves 61 customers on a metered basis. The distribution system consist of approximately 3,500 feet of 1-to 4-inch steel pipes. Five fire hydrants are attached to the system. The service area is contiguous to, and surrounded by, applicant purchaser's Stockton service area. The agreed cash consideration is \$1,600. It is estimated that the original cost was not in excess of \$2,611.

It is alleged that applicant sellers are anxious to withdraw from the public utility water business and believe it would be to the advantage of their customers to have the distribution system owned and operated by applicant purchaser.

Upon the transfer applicant purchaser proposes to integrate the water system of applicant sellers into its Stockton district for accounting and operational purposes and to apply its Stockton District metered rates, which are generally higher than that of applicant sellers. Applicant proposes to make such improvements, repairs, and modernizations in the distribution system of applicant sellers as may be necessary to enable applicant purchaser to furnish service comparable to that which it now provides in its Stockton District.

Applicant purchaser indicated that it would notify all of applicant sellers' customers by mail and inform them of the proposed transfer and the proposed higher rates if the transfer is authorized.

In general the rates that would apply if the transfer is authorized would be \$3.05 a month for a 5/8 x 3/4-inch meter and \$4.55 a month for a 1-inch meter as opposed to the present rate of \$2.25 a month. The applicable quantity rates would be \$0.164 per 100 cubic feet for the first 30,000 cubic feet and \$0.124 per 100 cubic feet for all over 30,000 cubic feet as compared with the present \$0.13 per 100 cubic feet.

The Commission has received no protest to the application, and after consideration finds that the proposed transfer would not be adverse to the public interest. A public hearing is not necessary.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. On or before December 1, 1972, Ralph L. Criddle, Sr., and Margaret P. Criddle, doing business as Oak Park Water Co., may sell and transfer, and California Water Service Company may purchase and acquire, the water system and properties referred to in the application.
2. Within thirty days after the consummation of the transfer herein authorized, purchaser shall notify the Commission, in writing, of that fact, and within said period shall file with the Commission a true copy of any bill of sale or other instrument of transfer which may be executed to effect said transfer.
3. After the effective date of this order, and not less than five days before the actual transfer, purchaser shall amend its Stockton district tariff presently on file with the Commission to include the area herein considered. Such filing shall comply with General Order No. 96-A. The effective date of the tariff filing shall be the date of actual transfer.
4. On or before the date of actual transfer, sellers shall deliver to purchaser, and purchaser shall receive and preserve, all records, memoranda and papers pertaining to the construction and operation of the properties herein authorized to be transferred.
5. On or before the end of the third month after the consummation of the transfer as herein authorized, purchaser shall cause to be filed with the Commission, in such form as the Commission may prescribe, an annual report, or reports, related to the operations of the sellers for the period commencing with the first day of the current year to and including the effective date of the transfer.
6. Purchaser shall maintain its accounting records on a calendar year basis in conformance with the applicable Uniform System of Accounts or Chart of Accounts as prescribed or adopted by this

Commission and shall file with the Commission, on or before March 31 of each year, an annual report of its operations in such form, content, and number of copies as the Commission, from time to time, shall prescribe.

7. On or before the date of actual transfer, sellers shall refund all customers' deposits and advances for construction, if any, which are due and payable as of the date of transfer. All unrefunded deposits and advances shall be transferred to purchaser and purchaser shall be responsible for their refund when due.

8. Upon completion of the sale and transfer authorized herein and upon compliance with all the terms and conditions of this order, Ralph L. Criddle, Sr., and Margaret P. Criddle shall be relieved of their public utility obligations in connection with the utility system herein authorized to be transferred.

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

Dated at Los Angeles, California, this 18th day of JULY, 1972.

Vernon L. Sturgeon
President
William J. Sturgeon
John J. Sturgeon
John J. Sturgeon
John J. Sturgeon
Commissioners