

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 81122

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's own  
motion into the operations, practices,  
rates, services, instrumentalities,  
equipment and facilities of Rosella  
Water Company.

Case No. 9434

(Filed August 29, 1972)

Donald G. Carter and Duane T. Call,  
for respondent.

Daniel M. Perry, for Tulare County  
Health Department, interested party.

Elmer Sjostrom, Attorney at Law, and  
Robert C. Durkin, for the Commission  
staff.

O P I N I O N

This investigation is on the Commission's own motion to determine whether the operations, practices, rates, services, instrumentalities, equipment and facilities, or any of them, of Rosella Water Company (respondent) are reasonable or adequate for the purpose of rendering water service to the public.

A copy of the order instituting investigation was served by registered mail on Donald G. and Rosella M. Carter, the owners of the respondent, on August 30, 1972. The matter was set for hearing before Examiner Rogers in Porterville on January 16, 1973.

The record shows that respondent was authorized to serve water to Tract No. 391 by Decision No. 66304 dated November 12, 1963 in Application No. 45546. Thereafter, it extended water service to Tracts Nos. 404, 423, and Unit No. 1 of Tract No. 502. The four tracts comprise 281 lots, of which 216 have been sold. It now serves water to 39 customers in the four tracts, only seven of whom occupy their homes throughout the year. In addition, water is furnished to a lodge-apartment-motel complex, respondent's maintenance yard, and one home, each of which is at the south end of and outside the area shown on its tariff area map.

In 1971 and 1972 the Commission staff investigated the adequacy of respondent's water production and distribution facilities. As a result, an engineer was engaged by the utility. He said an additional investment in utility plant would be required to construct necessary improvements to the water production and storage facilities.

A geologist advised that an adequate supply of water is available in the underground basin for the present, and for the overall development presently planned.

The water system facilities now in use consist of:

- a. Four operative wells with production of approximately 100 g.p.m.
- b. A ground surface storage facility of 20,000-gallon capacity.
- c. A booster pump capable of discharging 50 g.p.m. into a 10,000-gallon hydropneumatic tank which supplies the distribution system.
- d. A 60,000-gallon capacity storage facility providing water storage at an elevation which will supply water at adequate pressure to all but a small portion of the service area by gravity.

e. A booster pump which supplies pressure to the highest elevation of the service area (20 lots).

Automatic controlling equipment is scheduled to be completed in the near future. A meter is to be included so that production quantities can be accurately determined.

The staff engineer said that there is a limited underground water basin beneath the service area, there are water-bearing strata within the areas where wells are located, and the safe annual yield from the basin is sufficient for the present. He said the utility's service area consists of a resort-type development and the existing facilities are capable of supplying sufficient water at adequate pressures to the authorized service area and the three services outside the service area. He said storage is adequate for the existing 39 customers as well as those customers which are expected to be added in the immediate future, but he recommended that:

1. The utility be restricted to the existing service area until:

- a. An accurate water use per customer requirement has been established and the future system demand estimated.
- b. Proven additional production has been developed and the plant facilities have been completed.
- c. Adequate storage has been provided for the maximum water users.
- d. The annual yield of the water basin is found to be sufficient to adequately serve the present certificated area as well as any requested area.

Findings

1. Respondent has extended service to 281 lots in its tariff service area plus three connections outside its area, but contiguous thereto.
2. The service area is in a resort community. Approximately 39 consumers receive water from respondent on a full-time basis.
3. Of the 281 total lots, 216 have been sold and each owner is entitled to improve his property and demand water service from respondent.
4. Respondent has sufficient water and facilities for the 284 services, but not for additional services.
5. Respondent should be prohibited from extending water service outside the four tracts plus three additional connections until it has complied with the recommendations of the staff engineer and until further order of the Commission.
6. Respondent shall file an up-to-date tariff area map showing all parcels of land being served at this time.

The Commission concludes that the following order should issue.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Within thirty days after the effective date of this order, Rosella Water Company shall file a tariff service area map showing the area presently being served, indicating the boundaries of Tracts Nos. 391, 404, 423, Unit No. 1 of Tract No. 502, and the parcels of land contiguous thereto comprising the lodge-apartment-motel complex, the water utility's maintenance yard, and the residence.

2. Rosella Water Company shall not extend service beyond the area set forth in paragraph 1 without further order of this Commission.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 13<sup>th</sup>  
day of MARCH, 1973.

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

Commissioner Thomas Moran, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.