

Decision No. 86267

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's
own motion into the operations,
practices, service, equipment,
facilities, rules, regulations,
contracts, and water supply of the
MONTEREY PENINSULA DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY,
a corporation, and of RANCHO DEL
MONTE DIVISION OF WATER WEST
CORPORATION.

Case No. 9530
(Filed April 3, 1973)

AMENDMENT TO ORDER INSTITUTING INVESTIGATION
NAMING ADDITIONAL RESPONDENT

The Rancho Del Monte Division of Water West Corporation (Water West), a California public utility water corporation, serves water to approximately 350 customers in an area on both sides of the Carmel Valley Road located between the Los Laureles Grade Road and the community of Carmel Valley Village. The Rancho Del Monte Division thus separates the Carmel Valley portion of the service area of California-American Water Company's (Cal-Am) Monterey District into two noncontiguous parts. Water for the Water West Division is obtained from three wells drawing from the Carmel Valley aquifer. According to the report of the Department of Water Resources, Exhibit 32 of this proceeding, in 1973 these wells extracted 200 acre-feet of water from the aquifer.

Recharge of the Carmel Valley aquifer depends on percolation from the Carmel River, minor tributaries, and winter precipitation. These sources are shared, in their entirety, with Cal-Am's Monterey District and are a matter of concern in the present investigation.

The two hundred acre-feet per year extracted by Water West from the aquifer is a relatively small portion of the overall requirements of the Monterey Peninsula, and we have not, until the water supply situation worsened with the present unprecedented drought, concerned ourselves with this aspect of the overall water supply situation.

It appears now, however, that Cal-Am will probably be faced with the necessity of diverting the entire flow of the Carmel River. Such an event would, of course, preclude any recharge of the Carmel Valley aquifer until fall rains should refill the reservoirs and furnish the small amounts of water that enter the aquifer from minor tributaries and precipitation falling on the valley floor.

Because of the dependence of Water West on the Carmel Valley aquifer and the effects that Cal-Am's operations could have on Water West's supply, and vice versa, it appears that Case No. 9530 should be expanded to include the Rancho Del Monte Division of Water West Corporation.

Therefore, IT IS ORDERED that Case No. 9530 is amended to include the operations, practices, service, equipment, facilities, rate structure, rules, regulations, finances and water supply of the Rancho Del Monte Division of Water West Corporation; and to name Water West Corporation as a respondent in this investigation.

Although the reasons for including the Del Monte Division of Water West Corporation in this investigation relate mainly to the matter of the sufficiency of the water supply and to the effect

of the exploitation of such supply on the overall water supply of the Monterey Peninsula area, the Commission is not hereby limiting itself from entering any other order that may be appropriate in the lawful exercise of the Commission's jurisdiction.

The Executive Director of the Commission is directed to cause a copy of this order to be served upon Water West Corporation and mailed to all parties in Case No. 9530. The effective date of this order is the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17th
AUGUST
 day of _____, 1976.

[Signature] President
William Aguayo Jr.
[Signature]
Robert Burton Commissioners

Commissioner Vernon L. Sturgeon, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.