

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 86270

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.

Case No. 9530  
(Filed April 3, 1973)

FIFTH INTERIM OPINIONBackground

By Decision No. 86051 dated July 2, 1976, the Commission ordered California-American Water Company (Cal-Am) to institute a water rationing plan for its Monterey District. The order was issued pursuant to Sections 350 through 358 of the Water Code after public hearings held in Seaside. The water rationing plan ordered by the Commission consisted of four phases, three of which restricted outdoor usage of water by either limiting water to specified periods or, as in phase three, prohibiting all outdoor usage of water. Under the plan, phase zero or normal water usage would resume once the total usable water stored in Cal-Am's Forest Lake and Pacific Grove Reservoirs rose to a storage level of 200 acre feet.

The water rationing plan became effective on July 2, 1976. By July 13, 1976, because of outstanding cooperation of Cal-Am's customers, total usable water stored in Forest Lake and Pacific Grove Reservoirs had risen above 200 acre feet and phase zero, providing for normal water usage, resumed. Since that date, total usable water stored in these reservoirs has remained above 200 acre feet and there has been no occasion to reinstate phase one of the water rationing plan.

The immediate cause of our ordering of the water rationing plan was the inability of Cal-Am to meet, because of inadequate capacity of the transmission main, the demands of that part of its system below Pumping Plant 10A, located at the mouth of the Carmel Valley. Amounts of usable water stored in the terminal reservoirs were therefore selected as the criteria for implementing the various phases of the plan.

#### Review of Operation of Rationing Plan

A meeting for the purpose of reviewing the operation of the rationing plan was held by representatives of our staff, Cal-Am, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management Agency, the local cities, and interested parties at the Monterey City Hall on July 22, 1976. The staff has furnished us with a written report of this meeting.

At the meeting it became apparent that the plan as prescribed, while sufficient to mitigate the effects of limited transmission capacity, would still permit the depletion of the upstream supply reservoirs on the Carmel River, Los Padres, and San Clemente, at an unduly rapid rate.

Cal-Am had reported that it has water stored in Los Padres and San Clemente reservoirs to meet the projected demands of the service area only through the end of November 1976.

All parties present agreed that a modified rationing plan, less restrictive than phase one, but more restrictive than phase zero should be implemented and kept in effect until rains occur in sufficient amounts to replenish Cal-Am's sources of supply or until it becomes necessary to revert to phases one, two, or three of the current rationing plan. At the meeting Cal-Am's President, Obie Banz, specifically requested that the staff urge the Commission to adopt such a modified rationing plan, a phase 1/2.

As a result of the meeting, the staff requested Cal-Am to inform the Commission by letter what modifications to the present water rationing plan it proposed for phase 1/2. A copy of Cal-Am's response to the staff's request was to be mailed to all parties. It was agreed at the meeting that all parties wishing to comment on Cal-Am's proposed modifications would do so within three days after receipt of the letter.

On July 29, 1976 Cal-Am wrote to the Commission outlining two alternate modifications to the present water rationing plan. Alternate one provides for outside landscape watering only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Alternate two limits outside watering to 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. In addition, alternate two provides for an odd-even watering program so that a customer would be allowed to water only within the designated time periods on alternate days. Under either alternative golf courses would continue to coordinate their activities with one another and adjust their water usage to a maximum of 80 percent of the usage during comparable periods in 1972. Golf courses would be limited to watering during the hours between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., except that the use of not more than four hand-held hoses on each course for spot watering will be allowed during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Use of water by hosing or directly from faucets for washing paved areas or vehicles would be prohibited, as would be use of water for fire drills or construction purposes.

Cal-Am made no positive recommendation as to which plan alternate should be selected but the tone of its July 29 letter seemed to indicate that it preferred alternate one.

The only comments received were those of the Water Management Agency, recommending alternate two. This recommendation was endorsed by the staff in its report. The staff noted that an odd-even watering plan would allow maximum flexibility for all customers and would improve water pressure and fire protection.

Also, the Water Management Agency proposed that phase one of the existing plan be modified to provide for odd-even watering.

#### Discussion

It is apparent from the information provided by the staff and by the lack of objections to Cal-Am's proposed modifications that a modified water rationing plan is needed. We are persuaded by the argument presented by the staff that dividing outside watering between morning and evening will allow maximum flexibility for all customers and will improve water pressure and fire protection. We therefore will order the present water rationing program amended to include a phase 1/2 as proposed in alternate two in Cal-Am's letter of July 29, 1976.

The need for modification of phase one to provide odd-even watering is not as urgent as the need to implement phase 1/2. It is possible that, after our formal review of the operation of the rationing plan at the hearings scheduled for Seaside during the week of August 23, 1976, we may wish to make further modifications to the rationing program. We shall therefore delay consideration of phase one of the rationing plan until after those hearings.

#### Findings and Conclusions

1. By Decision No. 86051 dated July 2, 1976, the Commission found that a water shortage emergency existed within the area served by the Monterey District of California-American Water Company and that a water rationing plan should be implemented.

2. Phase one of the rationing plan established by Decision No. 86051 became effective on July 2, 1976. As a result of the water rationing plan and the conservation efforts of the community, the water stored in Forest Lake Reservoir and Pacific Grove Reservoir rose

on July 13, 1976 above the 200 acre-foot level established in Decision No. 86051 and phase zero went into effect. During phase zero there are no mandatory restrictions on the use of water.

3. Due to the very dry period currently being experienced throughout California, and in order to conserve existing water supplies, California-American Water Company, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management Agency, and our staff have recommended a water rationing plan less restrictive than phase one. This plan has been designated phase 1/2 and is attached to this decision as Appendix A.

4. Phase 1/2 is urgently required and should be implemented as soon as possible. This order, therefore, should become effective on the date of signing.

FIFTH INTERIM ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. California-American Water Company shall on the date hereof file and institute the amendment to the water rationing plan for its Monterey District, attached to this decision as Appendix A, as part of its Rule 11A and make such amended rule effective immediately upon filing.

2. The water rationing plan prescribed herein shall be effective until further order of the Commission.

The effective date of this order is the date hereof.

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

*William J. ...* President  
*Leonard Ross*  
*Robert ...* Commissioners

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

APPENDIX A  
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AMENDMENT TO  
MONTEREY DISTRICT RATIONING PLAN

Applicability

On and after the effective date of this order phase 1/2 shall be substituted for phase zero.

Phase 1/2

(a) Watering of Outside Landscape Vegetation

The watering of any outside landscape vegetation of any kind by hoses or sprinkler systems shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with such outside watering to be done on an odd/even basis.

(Properties with addresses ending in an odd number would water only on the odd numbered days of the month, while properties with addresses ending in an even number would water only on the even numbered days of the month. For the city of Carmel-by-the-Sea where there are no addresses, those properties north of Ocean Avenue would water only on the odd numbered days of the month, while those properties south of Ocean Avenue would water only on the even numbered days of the month.) Watering by use of a container or bucket not exceeding a three-gallon capacity will be permitted at any time.

(b) Other Restricted Uses of Water

1. The washing of sidewalks, walkways, driveways, patios, parking lots, tennis courts, and other hard-surfaced areas by hosing or by use of water directly from faucets or other outlets is prohibited, except that it shall be permitted to wash such areas with water contained in a bucket or container not exceeding a three-gallon capacity.

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2. The washing of motor vehicles, trailers, airplanes, or boats by hosing or by use of water directly from faucets or other outlets is prohibited, except it shall be permitted to wash such motor vehicles, trailers, airplanes, or boats with water contained in a bucket or container not exceeding a three-gallon capacity.
3. The use of water from fire hydrants at any time for construction purposes or for fire drills is prohibited.
4. Golf courses will coordinate their activities with one another and adjust their water usage to a maximum of 80 percent of the usage during comparable periods in 1972. Golf courses shall be limited to watering during the hours between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., except that the use of not more than four hand-held hoses on each course for spot watering will be allowed during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Notice

Immediately upon the effective date of this plan, California-American Water Company shall mail notice of the terms of this plan to all of its customers by first class mail and cause the terms of this plan to be publicized in the local news media on the Monterey Peninsula.