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Decision No. 86397

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GENO A. BETTI,

Complainant,

vs.

Case No. 10046

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER
COMPANY, a corporation,

Defendant.

ORDER DENYING REHEARING

On February 13, 1976, Geno A. Betti filed a complaint alleging that the metering of duplexes by Southern California Water Company (SoCal) in an area where single-family dwellings are assessed a flat rate is unjustified, inequitable and discriminatory. After a hearing held on May 7, 1976, Decision No. 86128 was issued in which the Commission found that partial metering in SoCal's Cordova service area is not discriminatory.

On July 29, 1976, Mr. Betti filed a timely petition for rehearing of D.86128, which stayed the effectiveness of D.86128 in accordance with Section 1733 of the Public Utilities Code. In his petition, Mr. Betti alleges, inter alia, that water conservation is an insufficient and illogical basis for the Commission's conclusion that SoCal's partial metering practice is nondiscriminatory, in view of evidence which shows that (1) with average monthly usage of 58 ccf, or 29 ccf for each of his units during 1975, Mr. Betti was charged approximately \$15 per month, while (2) flat-rate customers in single-family dwellings were charged \$4.50 per month based on average monthly usage of 28 ccf during 1975.


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bp C.10046


Having reviewed each and every allegation of the petition, we are not persuaded that error has been shown with respect to our finding that the partial metering of SoCal's Cordova service area is, as such, discriminatory, and are therefore of the opinion that rehearing should be denied. However, we agree with Mr. Bettl that the question regarding the differential of charges applied to similar monthly usage amounts should be addressed. Accordingly, an investigation on our own motion will be instituted for the purpose of examining this question.


THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that rehearing of Decision No. 86128 is hereby denied.


The effective date of this order is the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California,
this 14th day of SEPTEMBER, 1976.



President






Commissioners

Commissioner William Symons, Jr., being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.