

Decision 87 11 016

NOV 13 1987 ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Stanley Owens, Consumer of)
 Caliente Water Company,)
)
 Complainant,)
)
 vs.)
)
 Don Hill, owner, Caliente)
 Water Company,)
)
 Defendant.)

Case 87-08-056
(Filed August 28, 1987)

ORDER OF DISMISSAL

Statement of Facts

Caliente, a rural community about 30 miles east of Bakersfield, was formerly a watering stop in the Tehachapi Mountains for Southern Pacific Railroad (SP) steam engines. A small number of SP employees employed there lived in company-owned housing. These were served by the same SP water system which served the engines. When steam engines went into disuse, some of these employees remained and retired there, purchasing their homes from SP. However, SP retained the land until it could dispose of the small water system.

Don Hill came to the area and took over the water system after SP had dug a new well and installed a 4-inch main to service their former company-owned homes. Twelve families today receive their water through this small system and until July 1987 paid a flat \$20 monthly for unmetered flat rate service. The nearest alternate supply would be in Keene, another SP watering location 10 miles away. Hill, who does some farming, discovered that revenues were not covering his water service costs, and in July notified his customers that the monthly flat rate would be increased to \$30.

Stanley Owens, retired, is one of these consumers, and concluding that the new charge was excessive filed this complaint. Robert Mahin, a Commission staff engineer visited the area and talked to Mr. Owens. Thereafter, he discussed the situation with Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) John B. Weiss, who in turn applied Rule 10 of our Rules of Practice and Procedure to refer the matter to Mr. Mahin for further efforts to resolve the matter informally.

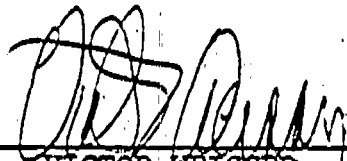
Mr. Mahin was successful in arranging a meeting on October 7, 1987, between owner Hill and his customers where the water operation and its fiscal requirements were explained, and an informal solution resulted.

As a consequence, on October 23, 1987, Mr. Owens wrote the ALJ asking that the complaint be withdrawn without prejudice. Therefore, IT IS ORDERED that Case 87-08-056 filed August 28, 1987, is dismissed without prejudice.

This order is issued under Public Utilities Code § 308 and Resolution A-4638.


This order is effective today.

Dated NOV 13 1987, at San Francisco, California.



VICTOR WEISSER
Executive Director

I CERTIFY THAT THIS DECISION
WAS APPROVED BY THE ABOVE
COMMISSIONERS TODAY.


Victor Weisser, Executive Director
JB