

JUN 20 1988

Decision 88 06 054 JUN 17 1988**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Tillie Creek Property Owners  
Association Tract #3141,

Complainant,

vs.

Split Mt. Water Co.,

Defendant.

Case 10950  
(Petition for Modification  
filed December 30, 1987)OPINION

By Decision (D.) 93584 dated October 6, 1981, we ordered certain improvements to be made by Split Mountain Water Company (Split Mountain). The decision also provided in Ordering Paragraph 5 that:

"5. No new water connections shall be installed in Tract 3141 or 3491 until defendant has complied with Ordering Paragraphs 1 through 4 of this order."

On December 30, 1987, Split Mountain filed its Petition for Modification of D.93584 (Petition). The petition states that:

"Split Mountain Water Company (SMWC) has complied with Ordering Paragraphs 1 and 2, respectively, of Decision (D.) 93584 by the installation of (1) a booster pump on Evans Road capable of pumping in excess of 20 gallons per minute from the 210,000-gallon storage tank in Tract 3491 (Homestead tract) to the storage tank in Tract 3141 (Pala tract) and (2) automatic pump controls for all pumps. The Pala well pump and the Evans Road booster pump both operate from signals received over telephone leased lines connected to liquid level controls inside the 21,000-gallon Evans Road storage tank. A float valve maintains the

water level in the 63,000-gallon Pala tract tank with water received by free gravity flow from the Evans Road tank located at a higher elevation. The Homestead tract well pump is controlled by a pressure switch located at the well site.

"The petitioner has not been able to comply with Ordering Paragraph 3 of D.93584 which reads as follows:

"3. Defendant shall connect the 210,000-gallon storage tank in Tract 3491 to the 150,000-gallon water tank in Tract 3141 by means of a six-inch interconnection at an elevation which will allow a free gravity flow between the two tanks.

"Even if adequate funds were available to achieve this interconnection it would not increase the available water supply. It is believed that other more realistic solutions are available to assure a more dependable supply for the complainant's Tract 3141.

"Since May 1, 1986, the SMWC system has been managed, operated and maintained by personnel and facilities of the Arden Water Company (Arden). No outages have been experienced on the SMWC system since summer 1986 when controls malfunctioned during a period of heavy demand resulting in outages. Controls were repaired and there were no outages this past summer. That an adequate supply was available during summer 1987 is believed the direct result of two factors:

"1. The system is now monitored by Arden employees the year around on a daily basis including week-ends during the hot summer months. Outages which might have resulted from faulty controls have been avoided. Also, water has been saved by preventing tank overflows and promptly repairing leaks.

"2. Water meters were installed at customer connections during summer 1986. Since October 1986 customers have been billed for water metered. A comparison of pumping power usage before and after meters were installed should be roughly proportional to the amount of water pumped and, presumably, used. Attachment A shows such a comparison for the 24-month period from November 1985 through October 1987. It may be noted that during the critical months of June through September the average usage dropped by 21% (from 160 to 126 kWh per day) on the Pala tract and by 30% (from 173 to 121 kWh per day) on the Homestead tract."

On March 23, 1988 the Water Utilities Branch of the Commission's Evaluation and Compliance Division submitted its report on the Petition. The report sets forth the following recommendations:

"Ordering Paragraph 3 of D.93584 that requires installation of a 6-inch main to interconnect the Pala and the Homestead systems below the elevation of the systems' main tanks should be rescinded.

"Ordering Paragraph 5 of D.93584 should be modified to allow new water connections in the existing service areas comprised of Tract Nos. 3141 and 3491 and in those areas along Evans Road where services are connected to mains of not less than 4 inches diameter.

"The prohibition on new connections should remain in force in the areas along Evans Road now served from substandard mains until such time as that segment of the system is brought up to G.O. 103 standards and the water supply is augmented as necessary to provide fire flow in that area.

"Well No. 2 and any easements or right-of-ways associated with it should be abandoned by SMWC or returned to the rightful owners.

"SMWC should file a revised service area map which includes the area along Evans Road in which customers are now being served or are reasonably expected to be served when the region is fully developed.

"An ex parte decision should be rendered in this matter."

Appendix B attached to the Water Utilities Branch report is a copy of a letter on the letterhead of the Tillie Creek Property Owners Assn. dated January 5, 1988, addressed to the Kern County Health Department, which advises:

"There have been improvements made under Arden Water Company's management and there were no reported outages during the dry summer of 1987.

"The Tillie Creek Property Owners Association originally requested the moratorium because of serious, repeated outages. This condition appears to be corrected and we would like to request that additional water connections be allowed."

### Discussion

This proceeding is a complaint case which was brought by the Tillie Creek Property Owners Association which was concerned with outages in Tract #3141. The original decision in this matter (D.93584) ordered improvements in order that the outages originally complained of could be alleviated or eliminated. The recommendations contained in the staff report as they relate to the scope of this proceeding should be adopted. However, it is apparent that the following recommendations go beyond the scope of this proceeding and will not be adopted herein:

"The prohibition on new connections should remain in force in the areas along Evans Road now served from substandard mains until such time as that segment of the system is brought up to G.O. 103 standards and the water supply is augmented as necessary to provide fire flow in that area.

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"SMWC should file a revised service area map which includes the area along Evans Road in which customers are now being served or are reasonably expected to be served when the region is fully developed."

However, since this matter has been brought to our attention we will take this opportunity to place Split Mountain on notice that it should file, through Advice Letter filing, a revised service area map to include the area along Evans Road, to which it is providing service or expects to provide service when the area is fully developed. Split Mountain should file an advice letter before making any additional service connections along Evans Road. Compliance with General Order 103 will be required before any new connections along Evans Road are authorized.

#### Findings of Fact

1. Split Mountain has installed a booster pump capable of pumping in excess of 20 gallons per minute from the storage tank in Tract 3491 to the storage tank in Tract 3141.
2. Split Mountain has installed automatic controls for all pumps.
3. Split Mountain has not installed a gravity interconnection between the storage tank in Tract 3491 and the storage tank in Tract 3141.
4. Other corrective actions have been taken by Split Mountain to curtail outages namely active monitoring of the system to correct problems as they arise and the installation of meters which has reduced water consumption.

#### Conclusions of Law

1. Split Mountain has complied with Ordering Paragraphs 1 and 2 of D.93584.
2. Split Mountain has not complied with Ordering Paragraph 3 of D.93584; however, it has taken other corrective action which has accomplished the purpose of Ordering Paragraph 3.

3. D.93584 should be modified by rescinding Ordering Paragraphs 3 and 5.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Ordering Paragraphs 3 and 5 of D.93584 are rescinded.
2. In all other respects D.93584 shall remain in full force and effect.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated JUN 17 1988, at San Francisco, California.

STANLEY W. HULETT  
President  
DONALD VIAL  
FREDERICK R. DUDA  
G. MITCHELL WILK  
JOHN B. OHANIAN  
Commissioners

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

*Victor Wehser*  
Victor Wehser, Executive Director

"2. Water meters were installed at customer connections during summer 1986. Since October 1986 customers have been billed for water metered. A comparison of pumping power usage before and after meters were installed should be roughly proportional to the amount of water pumped and, presumably, used. Attachment A shows such a comparison for the 24-month period from November 1985 through October 1987. It may be noted that during the critical months of June through September the average usage dropped by 21% (from 160 to 126 kWh per day) on the Pala tract and by 30% (from 173 to 121 kWh per day) on the Homestead tract."

On March 23, 1988 the Water Utilities Branch of the Commission's Evaluation and Compliance Division submitted its report on the Petition. The report sets forth the following recommendations:

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"Ordering Paragraph 5 of D.53584 should be modified to allow new water connections in the existing service areas comprised of Tract Nos. 3141 and 3491 and in those areas along Evans Road where services are connected to mains of not less than 4 inches diameter.

"The prohibition on new connections should remain in force in the areas along Evans Road now served from substandard mains until such time as that segment of the system is brought up to G.O. 103 standards and the water supply is augmented as necessary to provide fire flow in that area.

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Findings of Fact

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4. Other corrective actions have been taken by Split Mountain to curtail outages namely active monitoring of the system to correct problems as they arise and the installation of meters which has reduced water consumption.

Conclusions of Law

1. Split Mountain has complied with Ordering Paragraphs 1 and 2 of D.93584.
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