

Decision No. 87309

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

LEO A. and MARY LOU YUCKERT,  
Complainants,

vs.

SALINAS HILLS WATER CO. and  
SALINAS UTILITY SERVICES,  
Defendants.

Case No. 10261  
(Filed March 10, 1977)

O P I N I O N

Complainants assert that following the July 1976 billing for water and sanitation services, defendants began billing improperly; that in August-September of 1976 defendants changed their billing period from the first of the month to the fifth, and subsequently to other days of the month; charged a pro rata amount; and subsequently dropped the separate insert on their bill form showing the period covered by sanitation services; all in violation of their tariff, and resulting in overcharges to complainants. Complainants request that defendants be required to adhere to their tariff rules, cease changing billing periods, cease pro rata charges, and adjust complainants' bill.

Pursuant to Rule 13.2 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, complainants and defendants consented to the Expedited Complaint Procedure and waived the presence of a court reporter and a record of the hearing and findings of fact and conclusions of law. The matter was heard on April 7, 1977 in Salinas by Examiner John B. Weiss and submitted.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Defendants may retain the fifth-of-the-month-billing-period date effective with the August-September 1976 billing.
2. Defendants thereafter shall cease changing their billing period.
3. Defendants shall cease charging pro rata in violation of their tariff.
4. Defendants shall reinstate the separate insert on their billing form showing the monthly period covered by sanitation service.
5. As a result of the \$24.50 payment made at the hearing, complainants' account becomes current and water service is paid through meter reading 1220, and sewer service is paid through April 5, 1977.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1977.

Robert Bateman  
President  
William Lyons Jr.  
Vernon L. Stinson  
Richard D. Chase

Commissioners