

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 88397 JAN 24 1978

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Zelma A. Ratchford
for exemption from the provisions
of Decision No. 76673 and for
water service from Fitch Mountain
Water Company.

Application No. 57569
(Filed September 15, 1977)

ORDER OF MODIFICATION

By Decision No. 76673 effective February 9, 1970 in Case No. 8902 the Commission imposed the following restriction upon Fitch Mountain Water Company:

"4. Fitch Mountain Water Company, Inc. shall not extend or furnish water service outside its present service area and shall not provide water service to any new customer without further order of this Commission."

Zelma A. Ratchford filed this application requesting an order which would permit her, as an exception to the above ordering paragraph, to receive service from Fitch Mountain Water Company. She presently is a subscriber at her place of residence and desires a connection to Parcel 22, Block C, Riverview Drive, Healdsburg, a vacant property, for the purpose of developing it. Situated before a looped portion of the utility's mains, this service would demand pressure from two conduits at an elevation roughly equal to that of neighboring subscribers.

Fitch Mountain Water Company is an amalgamation of three systems which remain unconnected insofar as plant is concerned. Mrs. Ratchford's property would be served by the Del Rio system.

The Commission, in establishing the restriction on number of customers, found that the water delivery system and its maintenance were deficient. Since that time ownership of the utility has changed. The Commission staff recently has investigated the subject service location and has prepared a report accepted as Exhibit A. It has checked static and flowing pressure and solicited neighboring subscriber comments there. Pressure readings were 80 and 35 psi, respectively, and neighbors said that service has been satisfactory since the latest owner, Mr. Toomey, purchased the utility. The Commission has determined that the total water plant generally has been upgraded, i.e., installation of some larger and heavier mains, looping of previously dead-end mains, addition of pumping capacity with improved balancing, and replacement of storage tanks. Specifically, the following list describes improvements made to the Del Rio system.

- (1) An existing 10,000-gallon tank was replaced with a new 10,000-gallon redwood tank 1970
- (2) An additional 5-hp pump to supplement existing 3-hp and 5-hp pumps was installed at one station so that pressure would be improved. The control system at this station has also been expanded by use of pressure switches so that a more uniform pressure is maintained1970
- (3) A new 5,000-gallon redwood tank was installed in parallel with an existing 1,000-gallon tank 1971
- (4) Locations of a 5-hp pump and a 3-hp pump were exchanged for better supply and pressure balance... 1975
- (5) A previously dead-end low pressure main, along Riverview Drive, was looped and a 2-hp pump was installed at the looping juncture to increase pressure. The subject service would be located here 1976

The utility has become more responsive to its customers than at the time of issuance of Decision No. 76673.

After consideration, the Commission concludes that the application should be granted.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. As an exception to Ordering Paragraph 4 of Decision No. 76673, Fitch Mountain Water Company shall, upon application, provide water service to Zelma A. Ratchford at Parcel 22, Block C, Riverview Drive, Healdsburg.

2. In all other respects the provisions of Decision No. 76673 shall remain in full force and effect.

The effective date of this order is the date hereof. Dated at San Francisco, California, this 24th day of JANUARY, 1978.

Robert Bateman
President
William Snow Jr.
Leon L. Striggen
Charles D. Hovell
Clair T. DeLoach
Commissioners