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Decision No. 88992 JUN 27 1978

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of William H. Mettler and other owners to deviate from mandatory requirements for underground utilities extension for Lots 1 thru 89, Tract 27931, and Lots 1 thru 6, Tract 27581, 28004 to 28996 West Avenue C-6 (State Hwy 138), Lancaster, California.

Application No. 57913
(Filed March 3, 1978)

O P I N I O N

Applicant, William H. Mettler, and other owners seek authority to deviate from undergrounding requirements of Southern California Edison Company's (SCE) Rule 15, and General Telephone Company of California's (GTE) Rule 34, for Lots 1 thru 89, Tract 27931, and Lots 1 thru 6, Tracts 27581, 28004 to 28996 West Avenue C-6 (State Hwy 138), Lancaster, California.

Maps of the subdivisions were recorded March 19, 1969, for Tract 27931, and September 22, 1972, for Tract 27581, with Los Angeles County, California. All of the lots in the subdivisions are less than three acres in size. There are overhead lines and poles existing within the subdivisions and along the easements on the southern and the eastern edges of the subdivisions.

Attached to the application are letters from the Department of Regional Planning of Los Angeles County, GTE and SCE who have not stated positions relative to overhead versus underground extensions to the subdivisions. GTE estimated overhead costs of \$59,642 versus undergrounding costs of \$57,605 for providing telephone service to the subdivisions with 40% of both the costs refundable. According to SCE, providing overhead electric service would cost \$41,035 versus \$175,000 for underground, with all the overhead amount refundable compared to about one-fourth of the underground advance refundable.

Assuming development of all lots applied for, the per lot cost for both telephone and electric service would be about \$1,060 for overhead service with about two-thirds refundable compared to a per lot cost of about \$2,450 for underground service with less than one-third refundable.

The application should be denied because it does not state sufficient justification for granting a deviation from the undergrounding requirements of Rule 15 of SCE and Rule 34 of GTE.

Findings

1. Properties owned by applicants are located about 35 miles west of the unincorporated community of Lancaster, a development known as Mettler Valley in Los Angeles County.
2. The Department of Regional Planning of Los Angeles County, GTE and SCE have not stated positions relative to overhead versus underground extensions to the subdivisions.
3. SCE estimated overhead costs of \$41,035 versus undergrounding costs of \$175,000 for providing electric service to the subdivisions.
4. GTE estimated overhead costs of \$59,642 versus undergrounding costs of \$57,605 for providing telephone service to the subdivisions.

Conclusions

1. A public hearing is not required.
2. The application should be denied as provided in the order which follows.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Southern California Edison Company is not authorized to deviate from the mandatory undergrounding requirements of its electric line extension rule of its tariff in Lots 1 thru 89, Tract 27931, and Lots 1 thru 6, Tracts 27581, 28004 to 28996 West Avenue C-6 (State Hwy 138), Los Angeles County.

2. General Telephone Company of California is not authorized to deviate from the mandatory undergrounding requirements of its telephone line extension rule of its tariff in Lots 1 thru 89, Tract 27931, and Lots 1 thru 6, Tracts 27581, 28004 to 28996 West Avenue C-6 (State Hwy 138), Los Angeles County.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 27th day of JUNE, 1978.

 President
William S. Brown Jr.

Vernon L. Sturgeon

Robert D. Howell

Clare J. Doolittle
 Commissioners

Commissioner Robert Batinovich, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.