

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 89190 AUG 8 - 1978

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY for
an Ex Parte Order of the Public Utilities
Commission of the State of California
Partially Removing the Restriction on
New Customer Connections on Santa
Catalina Island.

Application No. 58166
(Filed June 22, 1978)

O P I N I O N

Southern California Edison Company, (applicant) requests that the restrictions imposed by this Commission by Decision No. 87874, dated September 20, 1977 in Application No. 57314, be partially removed and that applicant be authorized to provide fresh water service to 165 new residential units.

This Commission, in Decision No. 87874, found:

"7. Edison's existing SCI water resources are not adequate to meet the potential demands of existing customers. No further customer growth should be permitted until Edison has sufficiently augmented its water supply."

Ordering Paragraph 6 of the decision provided:

"6. Edison is authorized to file an application requesting removal of the customer restriction after it has developed a sufficient water supply to enable it to serve additional customers."

Applicant alleges that the rainy season of 1977-78 filled existing reservoirs to overflowing and replenished the aquifer, and that the water supply has been sufficiently augmented, by additional conversions of sanitation facilities from fresh water to salt water and the development of four new well sites, to permit limited new water service connections. Applicant states that it intends, at a later date, to request further removal of restrictions on new connections.

The 165 units covered by this application consist of two separate groups. The first group consists of 138 units for which Edison received requests for water service prior to May 17, 1977. This group is identified on Table D of Appendix D to the application. The remaining 27 units are identified on Table E-1 of Appendix E. A third group of unknown size is discussed later.

A letter from the City of Avalon, Appendix B to the application, encourages the Commission to permit customer growth, but objects to an effort previously made by the applicant to secure Commission approval of additional connections by letter request. The applicant therefore presented this application to the city for review and consideration. As a result, by a letter received by the Commission on July 10, 1978 and made a part of this file, the City of Avalon states its support of the applicant's request for the 165 additional water service connections.

The applicant has estimated water savings due to conversion of sanitary facilities to salt water at 28 acre-feet per year (AF/yr.) (Appendix F).

The four wells which the applicant considers to be augmentation of the water supply are not connected into the water system. They are, however, drilled and cased, and have been given limited pump tests. Total yield is estimated to be 101 AF/yr. Applicant considers it uneconomical at this time to develop the wells further, at an estimated total cost of \$400,000 and a time factor of two to four months to connect them into the system, when there is no assurance that all of them will be needed. Applicant proposes, therefore, to commence completion of development of the four wells when the water stored at Middle Ranch Reservoir drops to 700 acre-feet. Middle Ranch Reservoir

has a capacity of 1,050 acre-feet. It started spilling on March 2, 1978, and is expected to continue spilling through July 1978. With the addition of an estimated 640 acre-feet of ground water storage, available from existing wells, for a total of 1,690 acre-feet, this reservoir's safe yield is estimated at 372 AF/yr., as computed in Appendix G. The estimated production from these wells is not duplicative of other well production which is considered.

Applicant estimates that current customers have a requirement for 380 AF/yr. and that there is a net existing water supply of 382 AF/yr. The 165 additional customers for which authorization is requested are estimated to require 26 AF/yr., for a total requirement of 406 AF/yr. Water supply augmentation from the four new wells is estimated to be 101 AF/yr., with a 10 percent loss, resulting in a net augmented water supply of 473 AF/yr. Applicant estimates increased tourism and recreation use at 42 AF/yr., with savings on sanitation conversions of 28 AF/yr., for a net requirement of 420 AF/yr., leaving 53 AF/yr. available for future growth. These estimates are developed in Appendices F through M of the application. We note that approximately one half of the estimated future augmentation from the four wells will be required upon completion of the 165 units requested in this application, but that the wells will not be connected until it appears they will be required. The reasons for this are accepted, but we will require periodic reports of the status of the water supply.

Applicant also requests authorization to connect an unknown number of units, identifying them as "if any potential customers who would fall within either Group 1 or Group 2 are discovered during the course of these proceedings..." Applicant

estimates that one-seventh acre-foot per year would be required to service each unit. The City of Avalon does not concur in this request, stating that the customers should have an opportunity to be heard, and that the City and the Commission should have an opportunity to respond. We agree with the position of the City. Connection of any such units must be made the subject of a subsequent application.

Findings and Conclusions

1. Delay in completion of the four wells considered as water supply augmentation is justified, but periodic status reports should be required.

2. Authorization to connect an unknown number of unidentified units should not be given without an application and showing.

3. The existing and potential augmentation of the water supply on Catalina Island is sufficient to provide water service to the 165 units requested without injuriously withdrawing the supply in whole or in part from those who heretofore have been supplied by the utility.

4. The application should be granted only insofar as the 165 identified units are concerned.

5. Except as modified in this order, Decision No. 87874 should remain in effect.

6. A public hearing is not necessary.

It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Southern California Edison Company may provide fresh water service to the 165 units specifically identified in Appendices D and E of the application.

2. Commencing as of December 31, 1978, and thereafter as of the end of each calendar quarter, a comprehensive report of the water consumption and the new units provided water service during the quarter, and the acre-feet of water remaining in the Middle Ranch Reservoir will be submitted to the Commission, attention Hydraulic Branch, by the 15th of the month following the end of the quarter.

3. Except as provided herein Decision No. 87874 shall remain in full force and effect.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 8th day of AUGUST, 1978.

Robert Bateman
President

William L. Symons, Jr.
Richard D. Howell

Commissioners

Commissioner William Symons, Jr., being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

-5- Commissioner Claire T. Dodrick, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.