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Decision No. 89919**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Date-Ram Corp. to
deviate from mandatory requirements
for underground utility extensions
in Rich Sands Estates, Riverside
County, California.

Application No. 58478
(Filed November 13, 1978)

O P I N I O N

Applicant, Date-Ram Corp., seeks authority to deviate from undergrounding requirements of Southern California Edison Company's (SCE) Rule 15, and General Telephone Company of California's (GTC) Rule 34 for Unit 2 of the Rich Sands Estates tract north of Cathedral City, California.

The Commission staff engineer met with Applicant and the utilities to review the field conditions. A staff memorandum report dated January 22, 1979 regarding its investigation is incorporated herein as Exhibit No. 1.

Maps of Unit 2 of the tract were recorded May 29, 1957, with Riverside County. All of the lots in the tract, which consists of lots 140 through 261 inclusive, are less than 3 acres in size. There are overhead lines and poles existing in the other units of the tract and surrounding area. Applicant owns 22 lots in Unit 2 and is building single-family houses on 10 lots with plans to build on the other 12. Construction is nearing completion on five of the ten houses under construction.

SCE and GTC have not stated positions relative to overhead versus underground extensions to Unit 2 of the tract. GTC's policy, however, is to construct its facilities underground, at no cost to applicant, in its service area which includes Unit 2. The estimated total cost of providing overhead electric service would be \$8,800

versus \$51,000 for underground. There would be no cost to Applicant for overhead and a \$33,200 non-refundable cost for underground including trenching. The estimated cost of overhead telephone service would be \$13,400 versus \$26,200 for underground. Applicant would incur no cost for overhead telephone service and for underground only the trenching cost for the service connection from the street to each house. A joint-trench installation of underground utilities would reduce Applicant's cost from \$33,200 above to \$22,900, plus the service entrance trench costs. Applicant would incur no cost for overhead electric and telephone service to its 22 lots in Unit 2. The total cost for underground electric and telephone service would be approximately \$22,900 or \$1,040 per lot, plus service entrance trench costs, with no refundable amount.

The Riverside County Planning Department requires utility services to be installed underground to five or more lots being built upon by one entity within 1 mile of each other. Applicant's lots appear to be subject to this requirement.

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

Findings

1. Properties owned by Applicant are located about 3 miles north of the unincorporated community of Cathedral City, Riverside County, in a development known as Rich Sands Estates No. 2.

2. The Riverside County Planning Department has indicated it would require the undergrounding of utilities to Applicant's properties.

3. GTC will construct underground facilities to provide telephone service in Unit 2.

4. The estimated cost of overhead electric service is \$8,800 versus \$51,000 for an underground extension to Unit 2.

5. The estimated cost of overhead telephone service is \$13,400 versus \$26,200 for an underground extension to Unit 2.

6. Applicant will soon be ready to receive electric service to five of the homes under construction in Unit 2.

Conclusions

1. A public hearing is not required.
2. An immediate decision should be rendered in this matter in order to expedite start of construction of facilities necessary to serve homes now under construction in Unit 2.
3. 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 to Lots Nos. 140 through 261, inclusive, in Rich Sands Estates No. 2, Riverside 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 Rich Sands Estates No. 2, Riverside County.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 30th day of JANUARY, 1979.

Commissioner John E. Bryson

Present but not participating.

Commissioner Leonard M. Grimes, Jr.

Present but not participating.

Richard P. ...
 President
William L. ...
Clare J. ...

 Commissioners