

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 90265 MAY 8 1979

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY for)
 an 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. 58485
 (Filed November 22, 1978)

INTERIM OPINION

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 and which were partially removed by Decision No. 89190 dated August 8, 1978 in Application No. 58166 be further partially removed and applicant be authorized to provide fresh water service to new customers with a projected cumulative consumption of 114 acre-feet per year (AF/Yr.).

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's estimated increased water supply of 114 AF/Yr. is made up of two components: (1) an increased flow from the existing supply of 53 AF/Yr. and (2) a reduced base consumption due to conversions from fresh water to salt water sanitation facilities by existing customers of 61 AF/Yr. These added supplies are estimated to become available after 1979.

Applicant also seeks Commission approval to provide service to new customers on a "first-come-first-served" basis up to the limit of available supply. Applicant further contemplates that public hearings be held in this proceeding. However, by letter dated December 27, 1978 the City Council of Avalon has requested by unanimous resolution that applicant's requests be granted on an ex parte basis. Since the City Council purports to reflect the interests of the various parties other than applicant, and applicant itself has now indicated agreement that hearings are not necessary, these matters now may be processed on an ex parte basis.

The County of Los Angeles, by letter dated March 15, 1979 agreed to cooperate with applicant and the City of Avalon with respect to implementing the "first-come-first-served" approach to serving new customers suggested in this Application.

We agree that applicant has shown an added supply of 53 AF/Yr. However, we feel that the potential savings of 61 AF/Yr. due to individual decision to shift to salt-water usage for flushing is premature at best and may be conjectural. At any rate the process is beyond the control of applicant. If at some future time the projected savings of fresh water materializes due to a change in usage or for any other reason, applicant may, by adequate showing, present such facts to the satisfaction of the Commission, and request by advice letter the further partial removal of the restriction.

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Due to the time elapsed since the application was filed, and to the immediate need for employee housing in the Two Harbors area to serve the summer visitors, the Santa Catalina Island Company has requested that the application be approved expeditiously and be effective on the date of approval.

Findings and Conclusions

1. Applicant has shown an augmentation of its water supply in the amount of 53 AF/Yr.
2. As shifts from fresh water to salt water sanitation occur, or for other good cause, applicant may file, by Advice Letter not more frequently than once a year, a request for further removal of the restriction.
3. The applicant should maintain records which reflect the current status of conversions from fresh water to salt water sanitation, including information available from the City of Avalon records regarding customer usage patterns.
4. Applicant is authorized to provide new services on a "first-come-first-served" basis, which, as described in Section V of its application in this proceeding, is found to be reasonable.
5. The reporting requirements set forth in Decisions Nos. 87874 and 89190 should be consolidated to eliminate duplication of effort.
6. A public hearing is not necessary at this time, however, the long-range water supply resources and potential system demands on Santa Catalina Island should be further explored in public hearings to be held on this application.
7. Except as modified in this order, Decisions Nos. 87874 and 89190 should remain in effect.
8. As there appears to be no reason for further delay the effective date of this order should be the date hereof.

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

INTERIM ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Southern California Edison Company may provide water service on a "first-come-first-served" basis to additional customers until the 53 acre-feet per year augmentation of the water supply is committed.

2. Southern California Edison shall encourage the City of Avalon to establish an Ordinance which would require all existing and future developments, when feasible, to convert to salt water for sanitation purposes.

3. Commencing as of July 31, 1979, 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.

4. Commencing as of April 1, 1980 and annually thereafter, Edison shall file a comprehensive report containing an evaluation of its Santa Catalina Island water supply resources and of potential system demands.

5. The following ordering paragraphs of Decisions Nos. 87874 and 89190 are superseded by the reporting requirements set forth herein:

Ordering Paragraph 4 of Decision No. 87874
Ordering Paragraph 5 of Decision No. 87874
Ordering Paragraph 2 of Decision No. 89190

6. Ordering Paragraph 6 of Decision No. 87874 is rescinded.

7. Southern California Edison Company is authorized to file by advice letter for further removal of the customer restriction as outlined in Finding No. 2.

8. The long-range water supply resources and potential system demands on Santa Catalina Island shall be further explored in public hearings to be held on this application.

9. Except as provided herein, Decisions Nos. 87874 and 89190 shall remain in effect.

The effective date of this order is the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 9th day of MAY, 1979.

Commissioner Richard D. Gravelle, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceed.

John E. Guyon
President

Samuel L. Stinson

Clare T. DeWick

Donald W. Smith
Commissioners