

Decision 93193 JUN 16 1981

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's)
own motion into the operations,)
practices, service, equipment,)
facilities, rules, regulations)
and contracts relating to WATER)
CONSERVATION in existing and new)
residential, commercial, industrial,)
public authority, and agricultural)
classes of service.)

Case 10114
(Filed June 8, 1976)

ORDER DISCONTINUING PROCEEDING

This investigation was instituted on June 8, 1976, after a winter of practically no rainfall. The purpose of the investigation was to review water conservation procedures of utilities under our jurisdiction. Interim Decisions (D.) 86959, 88466, and 88692 have been issued. Collectively those decisions provide the several steps adopted by the Commission as the means to achieve water conservation during the drought period. Case (C.) 10114 was held open to provide a vehicle for the continuing evaluation of the water programs of regulated utilities.

The water conservation programs have been in effect for a sufficient length of time to show their effectiveness. No need appears to continue this proceeding in order to evaluate such plans.

Ordering Paragraph 2 of D.88692 issued April 11, 1978, reads as follows:

"2. After the effective date of this order, each Class A and Class B water utility shall include, as part of any new general rate application, an analysis of (1) the costs and benefits of metering new service to various classes of customers and (2) the costs and benefits of converting various classes of existing flat rate service to metered service. For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'various classes of customers' shall refer to the following breakdown of customers:

- "a. Nonresidential (excluding fire protection).
- "b. Residential with a service pipe larger than one inch.
- "c. Residential with multi-family dwellings.
- "d. Residential with lot larger than 25,000 sq.ft.
- "e. Residential with lot larger than 16,001 sq.ft. but less than 25,000 sq.ft.
- "f. Residential with lot larger than 10,001 sq.ft. but less than 16,000 sq.ft.
- "g. Residential with lot larger than 6,001 sq.ft. but less than 10,000 sq.ft.
- "h. Residential with lot less than 6,000 sq.ft."

In the three-year period since D.88692 was issued, the preponderance of Class A and B water utilities have filed general rate increase applications.

Section 781 of the Public Utilities (PU) Code (Chapter 1271, Statutes of 1978) provides as follows:

"781. The commission shall not require any water corporation which furnishes water for residential use through five or more service connections or which serves an average of 25 or more persons per day for at least 60 days per year, nor any residential customer of such corporation to install any watermeter at any water service connection between the water system of the corporation and the customer if on January 1, 1979, such service connection was unmetered except after a public hearing held within the service area of the corporation at which hearing all of the following findings have been made:

"(a) Metering will be cost effective within the service area of the corporation.

"(b) Metering will result in a significant reduction in water consumption within the service area of the corporation.

"(c) The costs of metering will not impose an unreasonable financial burden on customers within the service area of the corporation unless it is found to be necessary to assure continuation of an adequate water supply within the service area of the corporation."

Insofar as Ordering Paragraph 2 of D.88692 is inconsistent with § 781, that ordering paragraph has been superseded by the code provisions and has no force or effect. In the circumstances the ordering paragraph, having served its purpose, should be rescinded.

Findings of Fact

1. C.10114 was instituted to review water conservation practices of public utility water companies in the 1977-1978 drought period.
2. Orders issued in C.10114 established water conservation **methods to apply in the drought period and thereafter.**
3. C.10114 was kept open to evaluate the effectiveness of those procedures.

4. Ample time has elapsed in which to fully evaluate the water conservation measures established pursuant to orders in C.10114.

5. The conservation measures adopted in C.10114 have proved effective.

6. Ordering Paragraph 2 of D.88692 requires filing of certain metering information by Class A and B water utilities in connection with general rate increase applications.

7. Most Class A and B water utilities have filed general rate increase applications in the period since D.88692 was issued on April 11, 1978.

8. PU Code § 781 supersedes Ordering Paragraph 2 of D.88692 to the extent that the ordering paragraph is inconsistent with the code provision.

Conclusions of Law

1. There is no further need to keep C.10114 open in order to evaluate water conservation measures.

2. Ordering Paragraph 2 of D.88692 should be rescinded.

3. Interim D.86959, 88466, and 88692 (except Ordering Paragraph 2 of that decision) should be made final.

4. The investigation in C.10114 should be discontinued.

5. If future drought conditions arise requiring the review or establishment of water conservation measures, a new order instituting investigation will be issued.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Ordering Paragraph 2 of D.88692 is rescinded.
2. Interim D.86959, 88~~66~~⁶⁶, and 88692 (except Ordering Paragraph 2) are made final.
3. The investigation in C.10114 is discontinued.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated JUN 16 1987, at San Francisco, California.

Jul E. Soyars

President
Richard D. Mitchell

Thomas J. ...

Alvin ...

Francis E. ...

Commissioners

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