

Decision 93662 OCT 20 1981

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

JAMESTOWN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT,)

Applicant,)

In the Matter of the Application of)
the Jamestown Fire Protection)
District for a Deviation from the)
Standards of the Commission's General)
Order No. 103 for Fire Flows in)
Jamestown, Tuolumne County.)

Application 58425
(Filed October 23, 1978)

ORDER OF DISMISSAL

Statement of Facts

As the consequence of age, disrepair, and inadequate security, the Jamestown Fire Protection District (District) headquarters came to be considered unsuitable, and the District determined to construct new facilities at a new location. A 2,624 square-foot building was proposed, of which 1,728 square feet would be used for fire equipment, and the balance used for a small kitchen, meeting room, and rest room facilities. The building was to be of concrete block and metal frame members and siding with a metal roof. The only flammable construction would be in internal partitions and walls. Internal storage would constitute a light fuel load.

When the District applied to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) for water service, PG&E pointed out that the minimum water flow requirements for light commercial or light industrial units for fire protection as set forth in General Order 103 are listed at 2,000 gallons per minute (gpm). The

capacity of the water mains in the location chosen had a fire flow capacity of only 600 gpm. In order to deliver the minimum specified fire flow, two phases of water main replacement in that vicinity would be required at a cost of approximately \$36,000. General Order 103 provides that the applicant must bear the cost of such replacement.

The District, aghast at the indicated cost to improve the water mains to provide 2,000 gpm flow, approached the Tuolumne County Fire Warden's office in the California Department of Conservation's Division of Forestry for assistance. That local agency advised the District that in its opinion the National Fire Protection Administration (NFPA) had published test results which would indicate that a flow of 550 gpm would be sufficient provided the building were to be divided by a two-hour fire wall. Accordingly, the District filed for a deviation from the provisions of our General Order.

PG&E took the position that it could not support the request for a deviation since any deviation would merely serve to shift the system reinforcement requirements of General Order 103 and its cost to a future applicant requiring the same fire flow, or to the utility and its ratepayers at such time as the mains requiring reinforcement would normally be replaced.

Thereafter, the fire warden's office advised that it had written the NFPA to obtain the NFPA test data which would support the District's request for a deviation. Stating that this information was an integral element of the District's Master Fire Protection Plan, and would be an important point on which the Commission would have to base its decision on the Jamestown application, the warden's office advised that it would forward the test data when received. Nothing further was forthcoming.

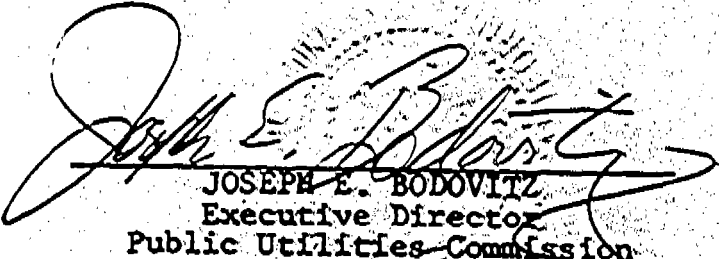
On September 22, 1981, after consultation with the assigned administrative law judge, the Commission's chief hydraulic engineer wrote the District asking if it still wished to request the deviation. By date of September 25, 1981, the chairman of the directors of the District wrote to state that the District no longer had a need for the deviation.

Therefore, upon written request of applicant and under Public Utilities Code § 308 and Resolution A-4638,

IT IS ORDERED that Application 58425 is dismissed without prejudice.

This order is effective today.

Dated October 20, 1981, at San Francisco, California.



JOSEPH E. BODOVITZ
Executive Director
Public Utilities Commission
State of California