

OCT. 9 1996

Decision 96-10-020 October 9, 1996

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 Citizens Utilities Company of)
 California (U-87-W), a corporation)
 for an order authorizing a variance)
 from General Order No. 103)
 Section III(2)(a) to allow for)
 the relocation of a 2" main.)

ORIGINAL

Application 96-06-048
(Filed June 25, 1996)

O P I N I O N

The application of Citizens Utilities Company of California (applicant) states, in part, as follows:

"Applicant currently provides domestic water service in accordance with General Order (GO) 103 to the owner of 138 Seacliff Court in Montara.

"Owner has proposed to expand the size of the existing residence by approximately 850 square feet, plus storage space. This expansion will not include the installation of any new water fixture that would create a larger use of water by the customer.

"Applicant currently has an existing 2" Water Line that crosses customer's property within an existing easement. The said existing water line will require being moved because the expansion will be directly on top of Applicant's existing water line and easement. The owner has requested Applicant to relocate its existing water line in order to complete his project.

"GO 103 requires that the minimum size for the installation of a new water main shall be 6". However, installing a 6" main is not practical for the following reasons: 1) Cost. A preliminary estimate for the cost of installing the 6" water line was \$23,777. This cost would have to be paid by the owner. 2) The installation of a 6" main would not increase water flows for domestic use or fire

protection since that 6" main would still be connected to a 2" main on both ends. 3) The installation of a 6" water main on the owner's property would cause serious damage to existing trees and landscaping.

"Relocating a 2" water line within a new easement on the owner's property would cost approximately \$6,600 and can be done with minimal damage to existing trees and landscaping.

"In the interest of the property owner, and upon approval from the Commission, Applicant is willing to relocate the 2" main. The owner has agreed in writing to relocate the 2" main as requested in this filing and to make such relocation a matter of record. Applicant hereby asks authorization for a variance from General Order 103, Section III(2)(a) to allow the relocation of a 2" main at the property."

On July 30, 1996, an Advice of Participation on a Formal Water Matter Planned by the Large Water Branch, Water Division, was filed recommending ex parte approval of the application.

Findings of Fact

1. Citizens Utilities Company of California provides water service to property at 138 Seacliff Court, Montara.
2. The owner of 138 Seacliff Court is authorized to expand the size of the existing residence; this expansion will necessitate moving the existing 2" water line to a new location on the property.
3. General Order 103 provides that the minimum size for the installation of a new water main is 6".
4. Installing a 6" segment of pipe into the center of a 2" pipe would serve no useful purpose, would cost \$23,777, and would cause serious damage to existing trees and landscaping.
5. Relocating a 2" water line within a new easement on the owner's property would cost approximately \$6,600 and can be done with minimum damage to existing trees and landscaping.

Conclusion of Law

A variance from General Order 103, Section III(2)(a) to allow relocation of the 2" main at 138 Seacliff Court, Montara, should be authorized.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. A variance from General Order 103, Section III(2)(a) to allow relocation of the 2" main at 138 Seacliff Court, Montara, as described in the application, is approved.

2. This docket is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated October 9, 1996, at San Francisco, California.

P. GREGORY CONLON
President
DANIEL Wm. FESSLER
JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.
HENRY M. DUQUE
JOSIAH L. NEEPER
Commissioners