

ALJ/RAB/sid

Mailed  
OCT 22 1997

Decision 97-10-048 October 22, 1997

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Dale E. Fletcher,

Complainant,

vs.

Southern California Water Company,

Defendant.

**ORIGINAL**

(ECP)

Case 96-12-023

(Filed December 26, 1996)

Dale E. Fletcher, for himself, complainant.

Daniel A. Dell'Osa, for Southern California Water  
Company, defendant.

**O P I N I O N**

Complainant asserts that defendant has overcharged him for water an average of \$3.30 per month for the 36 months prior to filing this complaint, for a total of \$119. Defendant asserts that its charges were accurate. Public hearing was held August 22, 1997.

Complainant testified that for the past three years he had been checking his water meter #1497936 (5/8" x 3/4") and found it to be registering fast on numerous occasions. He complained to defendant who tested the meter and said that it was accurate. The test results of meter #1497936 are attached as Appendix A. The tests were performed over time at five locations, for a total of seven tests. Although most tests were performed after this complaint was filed, the results are applicable to the period of the complaint. Our review of the meter tests shows us that complainant has sustained his burden of proof that he was overcharged for water.

General Order 103 provides, in part, Paragraph 3.c.

"c. Determination of Accuracy. Displacement meters shall be tested at three or more test flows: one at the minimum test flow, one at 10% of the maximum normal test flow limit and one at a rate over 35% of the maximum normal test flow limit. A meter shall not be placed in service if it registers less than 95% of the water passed through it at the minimum test flow or over or under registers more than 1-1/2% in the normal test flow limits; with the exception that a repaired meter shall register not less than the following appropriate percentage of the water passed through it at the minimum test flow and shall not over or under register more than 2% in the normal test flow limits,

If manufactured on or after January 1, 1947 .....	90%
If manufactured prior to January 1, 1947 .....	85%"

The Riverside County meter test shows flows of 98.5%, 104.5%, and 105.0%, for an average of 102.7, clearly above the 1-1/2% allowable variance. The Sacramento meter test shows a low flow of 83.3%, with a high of 107.0%. At 83.3%, the meter should have been pulled. The manufacturer's test of July 29, 1997 shows three minimum test flows below the 95% minimum for placing in service; plus every medium and high flow reading was substantially above the 1-1/2% allowable variance. If, in the July 29, 1997 test, Meter #1497936 had tested at the low of 95% then the combined average would have been 101.7, 101.7, and 101.9, respectively, all over the 1-1/2% variance.

Meter #1497936 was replaced in July 1997.

**O R D E R**

**IT IS ORDERED** that defendant Southern California Water Company shall credit complainant Dale E. Fletcher with \$119 on his next water bill.

This order is effective today.

Dated October 22, 1997, at San Francisco, California.

**P. GREGORY CONLON**  
President  
**JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.**  
**HENRY M. DUQUE**  
**JOSIAH L. NEEPER**  
**RICHARD A. BILAS**  
Commissioners

APPENDIX A

C.96-12-023 /ALJ/RAR/sid

Southern California Water Company  
Average Accuracy Test  
for  
Fletcher Meter's

Meter Number 1497936

Valencia Meter Test #1159			
Meter Number 1497936			
Low Flow	Medium Flow	High Flow	Combined Average
101.5%	100%	100.5%	100.8%

Valencia Meter Test #2266			
Meter Number 1497936			
Low Flow	Medium Flow	High Flow	Combined Average
101.0%	100.4%	100.5%	100.6%
95.5%			95.5%
4 test average			99.4%

Valencia Meter Test #2496			
Meter Number 1497936			
Low Flow	Medium Flow	High Flow	Combined Average
99.0%	99.5%	99.6%	99.4%

Riverside County Meter Test #4140			
Meter Number 1497936			
Low Flow	Medium Flow	High Flow	Combined Average
98.5%	104.5%	105.0%	102.7%

Stratford Meter Test #63097			
Meter Number 1497936			
Low Flow	Medium Flow	High Flow	Combined Average
83.3%	107.0%	105.5%	98.6%
	104.3%	105.6%	105%
5 test average			101.1%

Valencia Meter Test #1097			
Meter Number 1497936			
Low Flow	Medium Flow	High Flow	Combined Average
94.0%	104.5%	105.5%	101.3%

Middletown Meter Test #1997			
Meter Number 1497936			
Low Flow	Medium Flow	High Flow	Combined Average
88.6%	105.0%	105.0%	99.5%
89.5%	104.8%	105.3%	99.9%
90.2%	105.0%	105.6%	100.3%
9 test average			99.9%

(END OF APPENDIX A)