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We study positive solutions to the singular boundary value problem

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p u = \lambda \frac{f(u)}{u^{\beta}} & \text{ in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{ on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

where  $\Delta_p u = \text{div}(|\nabla u|^{p-2}\nabla u), p > 1, \lambda > 0, \beta \in (0, 1)$  and  $\Omega$  is a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N, N \ge 1$ . Here  $f:[0, \infty) \to (0, \infty)$ is a continuous nondecreasing function such that  $\lim_{u\to\infty} \frac{f(u)}{u^{\beta+p-1}} = 0$ . We establish the existence of multiple positive solutions for certain range of  $\lambda$  when f satisfies certain additional assumptions. A simple model that will satisfy our hypotheses is  $f(u) = e^{\frac{\alpha u}{\alpha+u}}$  for  $\alpha \gg 1$ . We also extend our results to classes of systems when the nonlinearities satisfy a combined sublinear condition at infinity. We prove our results by the method of sub-super solutions. (Received July 28, 2010)