

Decision No. 12091

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY
for an order permitting suspension
of operation, abandonment of lines,
and disposal of its property.

Application No. 8820.

W. M. Conley, of Lindsay and Conley,
for applicant;
F. B. Fair, for the mutual association
of the subscribers of the San
Joaquin Valley Telephone Company.

WHITTLESEY, COMMISSIONER.

O P I N I O N

This is a proceeding in which San Joaquin Valley Telephone Company, hereinafter referred to as applicant, requests authority of this Commission to suspend operation, abandon its lines and dispose of all of its property.

A public hearing was held in this proceeding at Fresno on May 8, 1923.

San Joaquin Valley Telephone Company is an incorporated company owning and operating a small telephone system, consisting of twenty-nine stations, in the towns of San Joaquin and Tranquility and vicinity, in Fresno County.

The outside plant of the Company consists of a system of grounded lines which, at present, is giving unsatisfactory service and to improve these conditions, and to render satisfactory service, it will be necessary to rebuild the system and metallicize the present grounded circuits.

Applicant is not able, under existing conditions and rates for service, to finance the necessary changes for the improvement of service and, since it began operations in 1914, has never been able to earn an amount sufficient to meet its operating expenses and taxes. The rates now in effect for service rendered by applicant are as high as the service will permit and any increase in rates would probably cause the discontinuance of service by some of the present subscribers, which would result in a further loss to the Company.

No objections to the abandonment of the service of the applicant were made by any of the subscribers and, on the contrary, this Commission has received written consent of the large majority of its subscribers to the abandonment of applicant's service.

The present subscribers of the Company have associated themselves together with prospective users of telephone service in a mutual association which proposes, in the event of the abandonment of service by the San Joaquin Valley Telephone Company, to take over the present property of the Company. This association then proposes to rebuild and operate the system as a mutual association. The Company, through its assistant secretary, stated that applicant's entire property would be given to this mutual association free of cost when it shall have received the permission applied for in this application.

I, therefore, recommend that the application of the San Joaquin Valley Telephone Company be granted and I submit the following form of Order:

O R D E R

San Joaquin Valley Telephone Company, a corporation, having made application for permission to suspend operation and abandon its lines, and to dispose of all of its property, a

public hearing having been hold, the matter submitted and the Railroad Commission being fully advised in the premises,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that San Joaquin Valley Telephone Company, a corporation, be and it is hereby given authority to suspend and abandon all public utility operation from and after the effective date of this order, which shall be June 1, 1923.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 18th day of May, 1923.

Chas. J. Peavey

Irving Martin

J. T. Whittsey