

Decision No. 14037

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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In the Matter of the Application of
SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY for an
order authorizing discontinuance of
agency at Rumsey Station, County of
Yolo, State of California, during the
period August 1st to April 30th,
inclusive, of each year.

) ORIGINAL
:
) Application No. 10315
:
)

F. W. Mielke for Applicant.

T. C. Nelson and L. S. Wing, for California
Farm Bureau Federation and Yolo County
Farm Bureau, Protestants.

Fred Shaffer, for Yolo County Board of Trade,
Protestant.

W. O. Russell for Yolo County Board of Super-
visors, Protestant.

C. J. Riedy for California Packing Corporation,
Protestant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

Southern Pacific Company, a corporation, has petitioned
the Railroad Commission for an order authorizing the discontinuance
of its agency station at Rumsey, in Yolo County, on its Western
Division, during the period August 1st to April 30th, inclusive,
of each year.

A public hearing on this application was conducted by
Examiner Handford at Woodland at which time the matter was duly
submitted and is now ready for decision.

Applicant alleges that the maintenance of Rumsey Station as an agency is unremunerative during the period August 1st to April 30th, inclusive, of each year and that for such reason authority is requested to discontinue the agency during such period and until the station shall have developed sufficient traffic to justify the maintenance of an agency throughout the entire year; and that the maintenance and operation of Rumsey as a non-agency station during the period for which discontinuance of the agency is requested will furnish adequate service to the public until sufficient additional business shall have been developed to reestablish the agency.

The station of Rumsey is located at the easterly terminus of the Elmira-Rumsey branch and is served by one mixed train daily. The nearest agency station is located at Gaucha which is 4.9 miles from Rumsey.

During the year ending April 30, 1924, the business transacted at Rumsey by the agent resulted in the following revenue accruing to the applicant:

Agent's Ticket Sales	-	\$266.00
Less-than-carload Freight-		
Received	-	\$ 993.00
Forwarded	-	<u>1256.00</u>
		2249.00
Carload Freight-		
Received	-	\$ 802.00
Forwarded	-	<u>9154.00</u>
		<u>9956.00</u>
Total	-	\$12471.00

During the period from August 1, 1923 to April 30, 1924, which corresponds to the period during which applicant requests authority to discontinue the agency, the business transacted by the agent resulted in the following revenue accruing to the applicant.

Agent's Ticket Sales	-		\$ 199.53
Less-than-carload Freight-			
Received	-	\$ 511.00	
Forwarded	-	<u>598.00</u>	1109.00
Carload Freight-			
Received	-	\$ 177.00	
Forwarded	-	<u>1851.00</u>	
			<u>2028.00</u>
Total	-		\$ 3336.53

The expense of conducting the station at Rumsey is made up of the agent's salary of \$110.00 per month and an average of \$5.00 per month for miscellaneous supplies.

Protestants object to the closing of Rumsey as an agency station and allege that such action will interfere with the development of the adjacent territory which is naturally tributary to such station; also on the basis that the present year is one unusual in its effect upon the shipment of products by reason of the lack of a normal rainfall; and that prospects are favorable for the early construction of a state highway from Rumsey to points in Lake County and upon the completion of such highway it is anticipated that agricultural and other products will move to Rumsey for movement to points reached by applicant's lines.

In the instant proceeding evidence is present as to the revenue derived from shipments received and forwarded during the year ending April 30, 1924, and covering a period when the general volume of traffic was greater than during the present year which is unusual and subnormal as regards the movement of agricultural products. The principal duties of an agent as a facility for the shipping and receiving public are those arising from the handling of passenger business and less-than-carload freight, both received and forwarded. The testimony indicates that the expense of operating

Rumsey as an agency station during the period of nine months ending April 30, 1924 and which are comparable with those months for which authority to discontinue has been applied for has amounted to 79.1 per cent of the total revenue received from passenger tickets sold and less-than-carload freight received and forwarded, and to 31.02 per cent of the total business handled. The applicant does not desire to close the agency except for the months in which the business does not justify its operation, and if the business anticipated by the protestants by reason of highway construction and increased general activity thereupon following becomes an actuality the agency will be restored. We are of the opinion and hereby find as a fact that the business offering for transportation at the applicant's station of Rumsey does not justify the continued employment of an agent during the period from August 30 to April 1st, inclusive, of each year and that the application should be granted in accordance with the conditions appearing in the following form of Order.

O R D E R

Southern Pacific Company, a corporation, having petitioned for an order authorizing the closing of its agency station of Rumsey in Yolo County on its Western Division from August 30 to April 1, inclusive, of each year, a public hearing having been held, the matter having been duly submitted and the Commission being now fully advised and basing its order on the finding of fact as herein set forth in the opinion which precedes this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that applicant, Southern Pacific Company, a corporation, be and it hereby is authorized to discontinue

the maintenance and operation of an agency at Rumsey Station on its Western Division in Yolo County during the period from August 30th to April 1st, inclusive, of each year, and to hereafter maintain and operate such station as a non-agency station during such months until the further order of this Commission.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 10th day of September, 1924.

C. A. Sawyer
H. B. Brundage
Livingston M. Nelson
Ernest S. Shore
J. P. Whittney
Commissioners