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Decision No. 14491

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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In the Matter of the Application of the
NORTHWESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY)
for permission to abandon a portion of)
branch line of railroad between)
Duncan Mills and Markham, County of)
Sonoma, State of California.)

:Application No. 10758

BY THE COMMISSION:

ORDER

ORIGINAL

Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company, a corporation, has petitioned the Railroad Commission for an order authorizing the cessation of service and abandonment of a portion of its single track line of railroad between Duncan Mills and Markham, a distance of 2.45 miles together with two spur tracks of an aggregate length of 658 feet, all in the County of Sonoma, and as more particularly shown on a blue-print map, marked C.E. 1660-36, as attached to and forming a part of the application herein.

Applicant alleges that the line of railroad, a portion of which is hereby proposed to be abandoned, was constructed to serve lumber mills operating in territory contiguous to Markham and westerly thereof; that the timber in such territory has now been practically all cut and that the

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lumber mills were destroyed by fire in 1923; that there is now no lumber to be transported or other traffic of sufficient volume to justify the continued maintenance and operation of this portion of applicant's railroad line; and that during the year 1923 long trestles between applicant's Engineer's station 1344 and the end of the line, together with lumber spurs located beyond Markham, were destroyed by fire and have not since been rebuilt as the traffic conditions did not warrant the expense of rehabilitation.

Applicant further alleges that the abandonment and removal of the trackage herein sought, if authorized by this Commission, will permit the County of Sonoma to construct and maintain a county road on the railroad right-of-way, such road having an easier grade and better alignment than the present existing county road, that shipments originating in the territory heretofore served by the portion of the railroad herein proposed to be abandoned can be transported by truck over the proposed new county highway; and that negotiations with the authorities of Sonoma County are already in progress relative to the change in location of the county road.

We are of the opinion that this is a matter in which a public hearing is not necessary and that the application should be granted.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that applicant, Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company, a corporation, be and the same hereby is authorized to suspend operation and to abandon a portion of its railroad line, 2.46 miles in length, between Duncan Mills and Markham between Engineer's Survey Stations 1234-55-4 and 1364-27-0 and two spur tracks, aggregating 658 feet in length

and located within the above described Engineer's Survey Stations, all as more fully shown on a blue print map marked C.E. 1660-36 filed herein as a portion of the application in this proceeding.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 27th day of January, 1925.

H. B. Brundage
C. Deaver
Egerton Schure
George D. Ingers
Emmerson D.
Commissioners