

Decision No. 15884

**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of )  
 SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY for authority )  
 to close its agency at Richgrove station, )  
 County of Tulare, State of California, ) Application  
 during the period September 1st to ) No. 11836  
 June 30th, inclusive, of each year. )

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 closing of its agency station of Richgrove on its San Joaquin Division in the County of Tulare for the period September 1st to June 30th, inclusive, of each year and during such months to maintain said station as a non-agency.

Applicant alleges that in its opinion the maintenance of an agency station is not justified during the months in which authority for discontinuance of an agent is requested, but that the agency will be maintained during the months of July and August of each year to handle shipments of melons and fruit.

Attached to the application are exhibits showing the revenue and expense incidental to operation of the station. These exhibits show the following data for the period during which closing of the agency is requested.

Year ending June 30, 1925

Months - September to June, inclusive.

Passenger tickets sold	-	None	
Less than carload freight			
Received		\$270.00	
Forwarded		24.00	
Total, Less than carload freight	-		\$294.00

Carload Freight			
Received		\$3552.00	
Forwarded		19533.00	
Total, Carload Freight			23085.00
Total Receipts			\$ 23379.00

The station was opened on July 6, 1925, and the expense of agent's salary and station expenses have averaged \$253.48 per month since the date of opening.

Based on the above figures the cost of maintaining an agency station during the months for which discontinuance is sought has amounted to 862.17 percent of the total revenue received from less-than-carload freight (both received and forwarded), this being the principal service for which the maintenance of this agency is required by the public. The total receipts of the station for this period, including the revenue from carload freight, have required 10.84 percent of the amount to defray the station expense.

The carload shipments received were principally box material consigned to packing houses, and the shipments forwarded were principally melons and citrus fruits.

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. The maintenance of an agent at Richgrove during the months for which closing has been requested is not justified by the revenue received from the volume of business transacted and places an unwarranted burden on shippers and receivers of freight at other points.

O R D E R

Southern Pacific Company, a corporation, having requested authority to discontinue the maintenance of an agency at its station of Richgrove on its San Joaquin Division in Tulare County, the Commission being now fully advised and of the opinion that this is a matter in which a public hearing is not necessary and that for the reasons set forth in the preceding opinion the application should be granted.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that applicant Southern Pacific Company, a corporation, be and the same hereby is authorized to discontinue the maintenance of an agent at its station of Richgrove on its

