

Decision No. 15909

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application)
of Bekins Fireproof Storage, a)
copartnership, for permission to)
re-adjust motor freight rates)
between Los Angeles, San Francisco,)
Oakland and places intermediate)
thereto, via applicant's Coast and)
Valley Routes.)

In the Matter of the Application)
of the California Highway Express,)
a corporation, for permission to)
re-adjust motor freight rates)
between Los Angeles, San Francisco,)
Oakland and places intermediate)
thereto, via applicant's Coast and)
Valley Routes.)

ORIGINAL

APPLICATION NO. 11133

Harry N. Blair, for Applicants.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

This is a joint application of Bekins Fireproof Storage, a copartnership, and California Highway Express, a corporation, seeking permission under the provisions of Chapter 213, Statutes 1917, and Rule 11 of the Commission's General Order No.51, for authority to readjust freight rates at points on the lines of applicants between Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland and the intermediate points.

A public hearing was held at Los Angeles December 8, 1925 before Examiner Geary and the interested parties having been given

opportunity to be heard and the case having been duly submitted is now ready for an opinion and order.

The applicants are now operating, under certificates of public convenience and necessity, motor freight lines primarily for the purpose of transporting household goods, furniture, pianos, personal effects, etc., and at the present time, although operating between the same points, have rates different in volume. At certain competitive points the rates of the Bekins are the same, higher or lower than those charged for the same service by the California Highway, or vice versa. The permission here sought is to place all rates of both applicants on a parity between the same points for similar service. In the harmonizing of the tariffs the rates of Bekins will be maintained at certain points and at others the rates of the California will continue in effect. The placing of the rates on a parity between competitive points will result in increases and reductions; however, the exhibits which accompanied the application and the testimony of witnesses evidence the fact that in most situations reductions in rates will follow from the proposed adjustments. Approximately 80 per cent of the tonnage is moved between San Francisco and Los Angeles and the rates to those points will not be affected.

Permission is also sought to publish specific rates to points not now shown in the tariffs, to publish commodity rates to named points for special trips based on minimum weight load of 4000 pounds, and hourly rates for moving household goods between points within 15 miles of terminals. It is claimed the hourly charges are necessary because of the difficulties encountered in ascertaining weights for movements in the outlying territories. Testimony and exhibits showed that the purpose

of the application is not to increase the revenues, but merely to correct an unsatisfactory situation and to standardize the rates of both the Bekins Fireproof Storage and the California Highway Express. There were no appearances in opposition to the application.

Upon consideration of all the facts of record, we are of the opinion and find that the application should be authorized and rates established in conformity with the exhibits attached to the application and those presented at the hearing. In authorizing these adjustments the Commission does not grant authority for any extension of the existing operative rights.

The tariffs of both applicants are now in a most unsatisfactory condition, failing in many respects to comply with our rules and regulations. They do not state rates in clear and specific terms and are complicated and ambiguous. Before the rate changes herein authorized will be permitted to become effective, applicants must present, for the Commission's approval, proof copies of new tariffs complying with the rules requiring that the rates be stated in such manner as to be clearly understood by the shipping public.

O R D E R

This application having been duly heard and submitted by the parties, full investigation of the matters and things in-

volved having been had and basing this order on the findings of fact and the conclusions contained in the opinion which precedes this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the applicants, Bekins Fireproof Storage and California Highway Express, be and they are hereby authorized to establish within sixty (60) days from the date hereof, the freight rates, rules and regulations as set forth in Exhibit A and amended Exhibits, attached to and made a part of the application.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that the tariffs issued in compliance with this order shall have the Commission's approval before becoming effective.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 29th day of January, 1926.

H. B. Bousdick
C. Seavey

Leon A. White
Commissioners.