

Decision No. 17529

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of Application of
VENTURA COUNTY RAILWAY COMPANY,
a corporation, for an order authorizing
applicant to discontinue operation of
trains and cars for the transportation
of passengers, express and United States
mail.

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) Application No. 15151
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ORIGINAL

I. W. Stewart and A. E. Shaw, Jr., by I. W. Stewart,
for Applicant,
Norman H. Robotham for Pacific Coast Motor Coach
Company,
A. K. Robertson for Oxnard Chamber of Commerce.

BY THE COMMISSION -

O P I N I O N

Ventura County Railway Company, a corporation, has petitioned the Railroad Commission for an order authorizing the discontinuance of passenger train service on its Oxnard-Hueneme branch, from the City of Oxnard to the town of Hueneme, a distance of 6.274 miles, all in the County of Ventura.

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

Applicant alleges that for more than twelve years it has operated passenger, mail and express service on its Oxnard-Hueneme Branch; that such operation has been conducted at a loss by reason of the revenue received from the traffic being insufficient to pay operating and other actual expense of such service; that the entire system of applicant is now operating at a loss and has been so operated for the past twelve years (with the exception of the calendar years of 1920 and 1921); that there is a paved highway extending from Oxnard to Hueneme which generally parallels the rail line of applicant, said highway being .874 of a mile shorter than the rail line of applicant between said points; that there is also another highway between Oxnard and Hueneme, which while not

paved, is kept in good condition for public travel; that the majority of the travel between said communities is by automobile and such automobile travel is increasing and, in the opinion of applicant will continue to increase.

Applicant further alleges that the total revenue received for the transportation of passengers, mail and express on the Ornard-Hueneme Branch during the calendar year 1925 was the sum of \$1965.75, or an average of \$5.38 per day, which is less than the cost of labor and fuel used in the operation of the passenger service; that in the event of authorization for the discontinuance of passenger train service it is the opinion of applicant that the service will be cared for by automobile service; and that the public convenience and necessity do not require the continuance of the passenger train service herein sought to be abandoned, nor will such service be required in future.

Exhibits attached to the application show the receipts derived from the passenger train service and the expense of operation to be as follows:

<u>PERIOD</u> Year Ending	<u>Passenger Train Revenue</u>	<u>Passenger Train Expense</u>	<u>Deficit</u>
Dec. 31, 1923	\$ 2866.04	\$ 8483.83	\$ 5617.79
Dec. 31, 1924	2550.16	12948.20	10398.04
Dec. 31, 1925	1965.75	7237.76	5272.01

During the years above mentioned the entire operation of the applicant's railway was conducted at a loss, and the losses as stated in the application are as follows:

Year ending	Dec. 31, 1923	Dec. 31, 1924	Dec. 31, 1925	<u>Deficit</u>
	-	-	-	\$ 11999.92
" "	"	31, 1924	-	32267.30
" "	"	31, 1925	-	12838.31

Although advice of the hearing was published and notices were posted at the stations and in the passenger car of applicant, there was no protest against the granting of the application.

Two business men of Oxnard testified that the operation of the passenger service afforded no material accommodation for the residents of Oxnard and Eueneme which could not be met by automobile service, and that the abandonment of the service would be for the public interest.

After full consideration of the record herein we are of the opinion and hereby find as a fact that the operation of passenger train service by applicant between the City of Oxnard and the town of Eueneme is not required by public convenience and necessity and that the application should be granted. Applicant is subject to the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission and will require the approval of such Commission to the proposed abandonment of passenger service in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 18, 19 and 20 of Section 1 of the Act to Regulate Commerce. The order herein will provide for the securing of appropriate authorization from the Interstate Commerce Commission before becoming effective.

O R D E R

A public hearing having been held in the above entitled proceeding, the matter having been duly submitted, the Commission being now fully advised and basing its order on the finding of fact as set forth in the opinion which precedes this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that applicant, Ventura County Railway Company, a corporation, be and the same hereby is authorized to discontinue the operation of passenger train service between Oxnard and Eueneme on its Oxnard-Eueneme Branch in the County of Ventura, and to cancel its passenger, baggage and express rates and fares and rules and regulations relating thereto, provided, however, that this order shall not become effective until said applicant will have filed with this Commission a certified copy of an order, or

other appropriate authorization of the Interstate Commerce Commission granting authority to said applicant for discontinuance of passenger, baggage and express service on said Oxnard-Euenome Branch insofar as such authority is required by paragraphs 18, 19 and 20 of Section One of the Act to Regulate Commerce.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 26th day of October, 1926.

H. B. Brundage
Chas. C. Beach
Frederick C. Brown
Leon O. Whitell
Thos. S. Lott
COMMISSIONERS.