

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of Application of)
 SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY for)
 authority to close agency at Simi) Application No. 12894
 Station, County of Ventura, State)
 of California.)

E. W. Hobbs for Applicant,
 E. H. Ogei for Ventura Land and Water Company, 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 closing of its agency station at Simi in Ventura County on applicant's Los Angeles Division.

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 as justification for the granting of the application that the maintenance of the agency station is unremunerative; that, in the opinion of the applicant, the continued maintenance of an agent is unnecessary until such time as traffic will have developed to an extent justifying the maintenance of an agency.

The following data as to the business handled at Simi during the calendar year of 1925, has been compiled from statements filed as exhibits attached to and forming a part of the application.

Passenger tickets sold		\$ 1222.00
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Less than carload freight		
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Received	\$ 636.00	
Forwarded	<u>71.00</u>	<u>707.00</u>

Total less than carload freight and passenger tickets sold		\$ 1929.00
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Carload Freight		
Received	1303.00	
Forwarded	<u>2051.00</u>	<u>3354.00</u>
Total Revenue		<u>\$ 5283.00</u>

Station Expense

Wages	1516.42	
Supplies	<u>36.00</u>	
Total		\$ 1552.42

Percentage of less than carload freight revenue and Ticket Sales required for station expense 80.48%.

Percentage of total revenue required for station expense, 29.39%.

The record of carload shipments handled during the calendar year of 1925 show the following movements:

<u>Received</u>	<u>Forwarded</u>
6 cars crushed rock	6 cars walnuts
3 " cement conduits	1 car fuel oil
3 " hay	<u>1</u> " dried apricots
2 " sand	8 cars.
1 car machinery	
1 " cement	
1 " grape stakes	
<u>1</u> " horses	
18 cars.	

The nearest agency stations to Simi are Santa Susana, located 4 miles easterly, and Moorpark, located 6.4 miles westerly. The station is served by one local freight train in each direction, daily except Sunday, and by two passenger trains in each direction daily. No telegraph office for commercial business is maintained.

Mr. V. S. Andrus, Assistant to General Manager of applicant, testified regarding the business transacted at Simi during the yearly periods ending December 31, 1925, and August 31, 1926.

The following compilation from an exhibit filed reflects the business handled during the year ending August 31, 1926:

Passenger Tickets sold	\$ 960.00
Less than carload freight	<u>677.00</u>
	\$ 1637.00
Carload Freight	<u>2521.00</u>
Total	\$ 4158.00
Station Expense	\$ 1035.00

Percentage of less than carload freight revenue and ticket sales required for station expense - 63.23%

Percentage of total revenue required for station expense: 24.89%.

Record of express revenue, both forwarded and received, shows a total of \$950.44 for the year ending September 30, 1926, or an average of \$79.20 per month.

The proposed closing of the agency is protected by the Ventura Land and Water Company and the Hacienda Sinaloa.

The protest of the Ventura Land and Water Company is based on the conditions of a right of way deed or agreement containing a clause that a station should be erected on the property. As the agreement does not refer to the maintenance of an agent, the interpretation of the intent of the obligation express^{ed} in the deed or agreement is not a material issue for determination by this Commission.

Mr. Thos. A. Robertson, representing protestant Hacienda Sinaloa, testified that his company was developing 500 acres in the vicinity of Simi, having commenced their operations about two years ago by the planting of citrus fruits, walnuts and grapes. During the period required to establish production of the orchards and vineyards the land is also used for the production of tomatoes and peppers. During the coming year it is proposed to plant some 250 acres in peppers and tomatoes and to proceed with the development of vineyards, it being the intention ultimately to erect a

grape juice factory. It appears, however, that the products of this ranch move from the non-agency station of Strathearn, which is located west of Simi, and no change in the facilities now available at such station are contemplated by the application herein.

After full consideration of the record in this proceeding, we are of the opinion that the volume of business now transacted at Simi station does not produce revenue sufficient to justify the continued maintenance of an agent, and that to continue such agency would impose an undue burden on other patrons of applicant's railroad.

We further conclude and hereby find as a fact that the record herein justifies the granting of the application in accordance with the provisions of the following order.

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 conclusion and finding of fact as appearing in the opinion which precedes this order.

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 Simi on its Los Angeles Division in Ventura County, and to hereafter maintain and operate said station of Simi as a non-agency station until the further order of this Commission.

No authority is hereby conveyed for the curtailment of any train service now scheduled to serve this station by reason of the change from an agency to a non-agency station.

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

H. B. Rouse
C. Seavey
Frank J. ...
Leon Whitell
Thos. R. ...
COMMISSIONERS.