

Decision No. 17744

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of Application of)
SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY for authority)
to close the agency at Dutch Flat) Application
Station, County of Placer, State of) No. 10759
California, during the period)
November 1st to April 30th, inclusive.)

ORIGINAL

H. W. Hobbs, for Applicant.
R. W. Clements for residents of Dutch Flat,
Protestants.

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 Dutch Flat in Placer County on applicant's Sacramento Division during the period November 1st to April 30th, inclusive, of each year.

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

An exhibit filed with the application shows the amount and sources of revenue at this station during the year ending November 30, 1924. From this statement the following data appears for the months of November to April, inclusive, being the period in which the discontinuance of an agent is proposed:-

Passenger Ticket Sales		\$ 613.00
Less-than-carload Freight		
Forwarded	86.00	
Received	<u>652.00</u>	<u>738.00</u>
Total, Ticket Sales and less-than-carload Freight		\$1351.00
Carload Freight - None		
Agency Expense -	\$ 841.05	

Percentage of Revenue required for Agency Expense, 62.25 per cent.

Mr. P. W. Barnard, representing the General Manager's office of applicant company, testified as to the record of business transacted at Dutch Flat station and that 75% of the business was done during the months that the station was to be maintained as an agency.

Abstracts from an exhibit presented by this witness show the following data for the periods mentioned:

	Nov. 1924 to April, 1925, <u>inclusive</u>	Nov. 1925 to April, 1926, <u>inclusive</u>
Tickets Sold	\$ 678.00	768.00
Less-than-carload Freight	<u>676.00</u>	<u>586.00</u>
Total -	\$1354.00	\$ 1354.00
Carload Freight	-----	91.00
Total Revenue -	<u>\$1354.00</u>	<u>\$ 1445.00</u>
Station Expense	785.00	785.00
Percentage of Revenue required for Station Expense	57.98%	54.33%

Mr. W. M. Stillman, Assistant Superintendent of the Sacramento Division of applicant, testified as to the manner in which service would be rendered to the public during the months in which it was proposed to operate Dutch Flat as a non-agency station.

Mr. M. L. Jennings, Trainmaster on applicant's Sacramento Division, testified that Dutch Flat received local freight service on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from westbound points, and on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from eastern points.

One local passenger train in each direction stops regularly and one in each direction stops on flag.

The granting of the application is protested by residents of the adjacent community who are patrons of the applicant.

Witnesses, protesting the application, testified as to the inconvenience anticipated for passengers and receivers of freight and express during the months in which the agency was proposed, and particularly as regards the winter season. The community at

Dutch Flat is located approximately a mile from the railroad station and in the case of late arrival of trains the absence of shelter was a prospective item of complaint. A protest signed by 93 residents of Dutch Flat and vicinity was received at the hearing.

After full consideration of the evidence in this proceeding, we are of the opinion and hereby find as a fact that the maintenance of an agent at the station of Dutch Flat during the months of November to April, inclusive, of each year is not justified by the revenue received at such station during such period and that authorization should issue for the discontinuance of the agency during such months.

It appears, however, that due to the location of Dutch Flat station as regards the patronage served and as to its location in a mountain territory where heavy snow conditions prevail in the winter months that arrangements should be made whereby the station waiting room should be kept open, lighted and heated during the hours between 7:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. when passenger trains are due to arrive and depart and applicant will be required to furnish such service to the public in lieu of the agency service as heretofore maintained.

O R D E R

A public hearing having been held in the above entitled proceeding, the matter having been duly submitted and the Commission being now fully advised, and basing its order on the find^{ing} 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 Dutch Flat on its Sacramento Division in Placer County, during the months November to April, inclusive, of each year and during such months to maintain said station as a non-agency station,

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that applicant is hereby required during the months of each year that Dutch Flat station is operated as a non-agency to keep open the waiting room at said station between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. when passenger trains are due to arrive and depart and to keep said waiting room lighted and heated during such period.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 11th day of December, 1926.

H. B. Rundise

D. Seaver

Leon Whitell

Tom B. Porter
COMMISSIONERS.