

Decision No. 18058.**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the matter of the Application of Sacramento Northern Railway, a corporation, for an order author- izing it to discontinue passenger service on its Suisun-Vacaville Branch.	}	Application No. 13,486.
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C. W. Dooling, for Applicant.
 Thos. C. Reynolds, for City of Vacaville.
 C. E. Brown, for San Francisco, Napa
 and Calistoga Railway.

BRUNDIGE, COMMISSIONER:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding Sacramento Northern Railway, a corporation, requests permission to discontinue passenger service on its Suisun-Vacaville Branch, in the County of Solano, California.

A public hearing on this application was held in San Francisco, February 11, 1927.

The Suisun-Vacaville Branch extends in a southerly direction from Vacaville to Fairfield and Suisun. The so-called "Willota Branch" is an extension of this line from Fairfield to Willota. This entire branch is entirely disconnected from Sacramento Northern Railway's Main Line or any other portion of its system.

A passenger service is operated over said branch between Suisun and Vacaville and serves the intermediate stations of Fairfield, Cemetery, Britano, Armijo, Vacaville Junction and

Alamo. This passenger service consists of six trains each way on Saturday and five trains each way on the remaining days of the week.

The passenger traffic has decreased to such an extent that at the present time there is an average of less than four passengers per trip. On account of the lightness of the travel, this passenger service is operated at a substantial loss. Following is a table showing revenues and expenses for the years 1922 to 1926, inclusive:

	<u>1922</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>	<u>1925</u>	<u>10 Mos. 1926</u>
Passenger Revenue	\$5,398	\$4,429	\$3,224	\$2,763	\$2,805
Expenses -					
Direct Costs Passenger Service	1,633	2,895	3,669	4,569	4,955
Indirect Maintenance Costs	1,350	1,160	1,330	1,640	1,190
Taxes	283	233	169	145	147
Depreciation on Pass. Equipment	228	228	228	228	190
Total Costs Pass. Service	<u>\$3,494</u>	<u>\$4,516</u>	<u>\$5,396</u>	<u>\$6,582</u>	<u>\$6,482</u>
Net Revenue	1,904	87*	2,172*	3,819*	3,677*

* Indicates loss.

The California Transit Company operates a stage line along the State Highway between Vacaville and Fairfield, which can adequately handle the few passengers now carried by the railroad. The schedules and running time of both this railroad and stage line are almost identical.

Although the railroad and the State Highway are not parallel and do not traverse the same intervening territory, the number of passengers carried from or to the intermediate stations on the railroad is negligible. The greatest amount of passenger

traffic from an intermediate station is from Armijo, distant some two miles from the highway. This passenger traffic was developed through the operation of a nearby cement mill. The mill has now ceased operation and therefore the need for public transportation no longer exists.

No objection was raised at the hearing to the abandonment of this passenger service except as to the discontinuance of the carriage of mail on these cars between Vacaville and Suisun. However, the volume of mail so handled does not by itself appear to be a valid reason for denying this application.

The applicant will continue to handle freight on this branch as in the past between Armijo and Suisun and on the Willota Branch. From the evidence it appears that public convenience and necessity do not require the continuance of passenger service on the Suisun-Vacaville Branch of applicant and that this application should be granted.

The following form of order is recommended:

O R D E R

Sacramento Northern Railway, a corporation, having applied to the Railroad Commission for an order authorizing the discontinuance of passenger service on its Suisun-Vacaville Branch in the County of Solano, a public hearing having been held, the matter having been duly submitted, the Commission being apprised of the facts, the matter being under submission and ready for decision, therefore

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that applicant, Sacramento Northern Railway, a corporation, be and the same is hereby authorized to discontinue the operation of passenger service over its Suisun-Vacaville Branch, in the County of Solano, said discontinuance of

service to become effective after said applicant shall have cancelled all passenger tariffs and time schedules for said Suisun-Vacaville Branch, now lawfully filed with this Commission and shall have given ten (10) days notice of the cessation of said passenger service, as herein authorized, to the travelling public by posting notices of discontinuance of said passenger service at all stations on said Suisun-Vacaville Branch.

The foregoing opinion and order are hereby approved and ordered filed as the opinion and order of the Railroad Commission of the State of California.

For all other purposes, the effective date of this order shall be twenty (20) days from and after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 14th day of March, 1927.

Frank J. ...
H. B. ...
C. A. ...
Leon ...
Thos. ...

Commissioners.