

Decision No. 18447.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application of
THE WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY
for an order authorizing the abandon-
ment of its agency station at Omira,
California.

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)
) Application No. 13505.
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George Scruggs, for applicant.
J. J. Deuel and Edson Abel, for California
Farm Bureau Federation and Lassen County
Farm Bureau, protestants.
C. C. Graves, for American Railway Express.

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION

This is an application by The Western Pacific Railroad Company seeking authority to remove the agent from its station at Omira, Lassen County, and to continue the point as a non-agency prepay station.

A public hearing was held before Examiner Geary at Doyle May 13, 1927, and the application having been duly submitted is now ready for our opinion and order.

The petition sets forth that the volume of the business at Omira, located 4.6 miles west of Doyle, does not warrant the continuance of an agency station, and that the transactions may be conveniently handled in the future through either the agent at the Doyle station or at Omira by shippers flagging the necessary trains.

The applicant presented exhibits and by the testimony of its witnesses showed that during the calendar year 1926 the

total freight, both received and forwarded, consisted of 49 tons of hay, 15 tons of shingles, and 19 tons of less than carload freight, with a revenue for the year of \$377.02. During the same period the agent sold 61 tickets, with a revenue of \$294.54, making a total revenue, freight and passenger, of \$671.76, or approximately \$50 per month. The operating expenses during the year, exclusive of the salaries of telegraph operators handling the wires for train movements, was \$2,040.56, of which amount \$1,880.24 was for the salary of the agent, \$63.00 for fuel, and \$97.32 for stationery and other supplies, making the total out-of-pocket expense during 1926 \$1,369.00 in excess of the total revenue. The agency also handled a limited express and Western Union business.

At one time Omira was of some importance by reason of the fact that the applicant maintained water tanks and train dispatching operators at that point, but recently these facilities were moved to Doyle, which is now the central point for the shipment of live stock and for the feeding and resting of stock in transit.

There was testimony from interested farmers and stock raisers who used the Omira agency to a very limited extent in forwarding freight, the principal commodity at this time being very small shipments of cream. The testimony of these witnesses showed that because of the close proximity to Doyle and the advantages at that point they were actually using the Doyle agency to a greater extent than the agency at Omira. The principal objection of the cream producers was to flagging the freight trains and also because the highway crossed the railroad tracks five times in the distance of 4.6 miles between Omira and Doyle. The highway will soon be rebuilt, eliminating these objections.

It is not the intention of applicant to remove or change any of the station buildings or facilities.

After careful consideration of all the facts of record we are of the opinion and find that the freight and passenger revenue received at Omira does not warrant a continuance of an agent at that point, that there is no public convenience and necessity for an agent, and that the application should be granted with the stipulation that Omira will be continued as a non-agency station for the receipt and delivery of freight in any quantity, carload or less.

O R D E R

This application having been duly heard and submitted, full investigation of the matters and things involved having been had, and basing this order on the findings of fact and the conclusions contained in the opinion which precedes this order and which said opinion is hereby referred to and made a part hereof,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that authority be and it is hereby granted to The Western Pacific Railroad Company, a corporation, to abandon its agency at Omira, Lassen County, and to establish at the same point a prepay non-agency station.

The authority herein granted shall become effective on the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 1st day of June, 1927.

H. R. Brundage

C. S. ...

Thos. S. ...
Commissioners.