

Decision No. 18608

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application
of SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY to
close agency at Alhambra Station,
Los Angeles County, and for per-
mission to change name of Shorb
Station to Alhambra Station.

APPLICATION NO. 13502.

H. W. Hobbs, for Southern Pacific Company,
Applicant.

T. C. Gould, City Attorney, and M. H. Irvine,
City Manager, for City of Alhambra, Inter-
ested Party.

Plym C. Davis, Secretary, for Alhambra
Chamber of Commerce, Interested Party.

J. B. Scullin, Secretary, for Alhambra Bus-
iness Men's Association, Interested Party.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding Southern Pacific Company seeks authority to close its agency at Alhambra Station in the city of Alhambra, to change the name of Shorb Station, also in the city of Alhambra, to Alhambra Station, and to eliminate the name of Shorb Station from its records.

A public hearing herein was conducted by Examiner Williams at Alhambra, at which time all parties interested and appearing were heard and the matter was duly submitted for decision.

Alhambra Station has been maintained by applicant for many years at the intersection of its main line and Garfield

Avenue in the city of Alhambra. Applicant has also maintained Shorb Station, 1.3 miles west of Alhambra Station, and San Gabriel Station, 1.6 miles east.

Industrial development in the city of Alhambra was shown by the testimony to have increased the business at Shorb Station to such a point that approximately four-fifths of the passenger and freight business is transacted at this station, instead of at Alhambra Station. In addition, improvements are being made and others are planned by applicant at Shorb Station to increase facilities for all traffic. Shorb Station is located very near the Valley Boulevard, running east from Los Angeles to Pomona and eastern points, and is a convenient point of arrival and departure for persons and property destined to Alhambra, South Pasadena and Pasadena on the north, and Monterey Park and Montebello on the south. The roads leading to this station are paved, and there are, in addition, close connections by bus and rail. In other words, the convenience of the public has diverted the business formerly transacted at Alhambra Station to Shorb Station. Originally Shorb Station was not within the city limits of Alhambra, but it has been included by annexation, together with a large area which is being extensively developed for industrial purposes in proximity to the main and branch line of applicant.

According to the testimony of G. E. Gaylord, superintendent of the Los Angeles division of applicant, Alhambra Station will be continued as part of the yards when the change herein applied for has been authorized, and the change will make no change in the rates now charged for transportation of either persons or property. In addition, Shorb

Station is open 24 hours daily for all purposes except receiving and dispatching freight, while Alhambra Station has been kept open only from 8:00 to 5:00 daily. Improvements now being made at Shorb Station include a large increase in platform capacity and facilities for access of heavy vehicles to the platform.

George W. Wetherby, district passenger agent of applicant at Alhambra, testified that applicant operates 12 trains daily in both directions, and that stops are made at Alhambra Station only on flag for transcontinental passengers. There is no stop for passengers, otherwise, at this station. All of the trains mentioned now stop at Shorb Station. No American Railway Express business is handled at Alhambra Station, while such service is maintained at Shorb Station.

Exhibits filed by applicant disclose that between October 1, 1925, and September 30, 1926, 220 carload shipments were received and forwarded at Alhambra Station; that from November 1, 1925, to October 31, 1926, L C L shipments aggregating 1,950,009 pounds were received or dispatched; that during the same period 1080 pieces of baggage were handled; and that the revenue from October, 1925, to September, 1926, inclusive, was \$34,743, while the expenses for the same period were \$3,087.25.

It was shown by the testimony that the elimination of Alhambra as an agency station would transfer a large part of the cost of this station to the Shorb Station, and that such elimination would not represent a saving of the entire cost; further, that the same deliveries of carload freight would be made at Alhambra Station as are now made.

No opposition was made to the proposed change by any of the interested parties. Mr. T. C. Gould, city attorney

for the city of Alhambra, and Mr. M. E. Irvine, its city manager, stated that they had no objection to the change and that the city trustees had authorized such a representation. Similar testimony was given by Mr. V. Woodbury, president of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. J. B. Scullin, secretary and manager of the Alhambra Business Men's Association, each of which organizations, by resolution, approved the purposes of the application. It was their attitude that there was no necessity for maintaining two stations in the city of Alhambra, and that they preferred a concentration of service and betterments at Shorb.

There was considerable discussion as to what name should attach to the old Alhambra Station after its abandonment, and applicant stated that it would be known as Stone-man Station. This met with no objection.

Some of the interested parties indicated that they believed the concentration of all business at Shorb Station would eventually lead to the construction by applicant of new and better facilities, and while applicant executed no promise of this kind, it is apparently a step toward an ultimate treatment of the transportation situation that will benefit a very large area east of the Los Angeles River.

It appears from the testimony herein that the authority sought by applicant is reasonable and without injury to the shipping interests of Alhambra and vicinity, and that therefore it should be granted. An order will so provide.

O R D E R

Southern Pacific Company having made application to the Railroad Commission for authority to close its agency at Alhambra Station in the city of Alhambra, to change the name of Shorb Station to Alhambra Station, and to eliminate the name of Shorb Station from its records, a public hearing having been held, the matter having been duly submitted and now being ready for decision,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Southern Pacific Company be and it is hereby authorized to close its agency in the city of Alhambra, known as Alhambra Station; that Southern Pacific Company be and it is hereby authorized to change the name of Shorb Station in the city of Alhambra to Alhambra Station; and that the name "Shorb Station" be eliminated from the records of Southern Pacific Company.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty (20) days from and after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 13th
day of July 1927.

Ernesto

Chas. J. ...

Leon Whitell

COMMISSIONERS.