

Decision No. 1889

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

AROMAS GRANGE NO. 361  
PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY,

Complainant.

vs.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD  
COMPANY,

Defendant.

Case No. 2375.

Edson Abel for Complainant.

H. W. Hobbs for Defendant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

Request is made by the above named complainant for an order of this Commission requiring the defendant to install an automatic wig-wag or some other proper automatic moving signal at a crossing located approximately  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of the City of Watsonville in the County of Santa Cruz and about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Aromas in the County of Monterey, which crossing is commonly known as "Thompson Crossing" and is formed by the intersection of the Monterey County Highway with the tracks of the defendant railroad company. The basis for such request is that the hazard which exists at this crossing requires such safety signals. By answer the defendant denied that such crossing is dangerous or that there is any necessity for an automatic wig-wag or other mechanical warning signal.

A public hearing was held before Examiner Vaughan at Watsonville, the matter was duly submitted and is now ready for decision.

From the record it is shown that there are approximately 25 train movements daily over this crossing and a vehicular

ORIGINAL

traffic check taken on August 28, 1927, by the defendant and introduced into the record shows that 726 automobiles passed this crossing between the hours of 6 A. M. and 9 P. M., and on August 30th between the same hours there were 617 auto-vehicular movements. It is further shown in the record that during a considerable portion of the year a rather heavy fog is prevalent in the general area in which this crossing is located, and that during such foggy periods a ringing signal and a swinging light would greatly aid in warning people using the highway of approaching trains.

It is our opinion that the public safety requires the installation of a wig-wag signal at this crossing. An order will be entered accordingly.

#### O R D E R

A public hearing having been held on the above-entitled proceeding, the Commission being apprised of the facts, the matter being under submission and ready for decision,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that defendant, Southern Pacific Railroad Company, and its lessee, Southern Pacific Company, install and maintain an automatic flagman at their own expense at the crossing known as "Thompson's Crossing," approximately  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of the City of Watsonville and

about 2½ miles west of Aromas.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty  
(20) days after the making thereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 4<sup>th</sup>  
day of October, 1927.

Francisco D.  
Osborn  
Leon Whitell  
John D. Lewis  
M. J. C.  
Commissioners.