

Decision No. 20800.

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
SANTA MONICA BAY TELEPHONE COMPANY, a
corporation, for a certificate author-
izing the establishment of a separate
exchange area and authorizing appli-
cant to publish, file and make effec-
tive rates for exchange telephone ser-
vice at Sawtelle, Los Angeles County,
California.

Application No. 14866.

- C. F. Mason and Ernest Irwin, for Applicant.
Chester L. Coffin, City Attorney, and Paul
Home, for City of Santa Monica,
Protestant.
- Samuel J. Crawford, for Merchant's Association
of Santa Monica and for Merchants of
Santa Monica and Venice, Protestants.
- R. A. Chapin, for Brentwood Improvement Club
and Certain Residents of Brentwood
District, Protestants.
- L. M. Ford and Elmer Kittell, for Santa Monica
Bay District Realty Board, Protestant.
- W. P. Mason, for Certain Residents of Brent-
wood Park, Interested Parties.
- B. C. Gibson, for Brentwood Heights Chamber of
Commerce, Protestant.
- Edmond Slama, for Santa Monica-Ocean Park Chamber
of Commerce, Protestant.
- J. B. Lorbeer, for Kiwanis Club and Greater Main
Street Association, Protestants.
- K. L. Griffin, for Sunset Hill Club, Protestant.
Walter Tillmans, for Bay District Exchange Club,
Protestant.
- J. F. Shaw, for Topanga Canyon Development Associa-
tion, Protestant.
- Louise G. Stagner, for Brentwood Country Club,
Protestant.
- J. A. Edmonson, for Santa Monica Canyon Chamber of
Commerce, Protestant.
- R. J. Hardacker, for University Branch, Los Angeles
Chamber of Commerce, Proponent.
- Earl W. Porter, for Venice Branch, Los Angeles
Chamber of Commerce, Interested Party.
- J. Y. Blaikie, for California Botanic Gardens,
Proponent.
- C. A. Wayne, for A. E. Bell Corporation, Proponent.
Jess E. Stephens, City Attorney, by J. L. Rowan,
Deputy City Attorney, for City of Los Angeles,
Interested Party.

Cornelius W. McInery, Deputy City Attorney,
for City of Santa Monica, Protestant.
R. M. Chenoweth, for Certain Citizens of
Westwood, Interested Parties.
Arthur Gould, for Los Angeles Board of Educa-
tion, Interested Party.
F. F. Ball and George L. Metcalf, for Board
of Public Utilities and Transportation
of City of Los Angeles, Interested Party.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this application, Santa Monica Bay Telephone Company requests a certificate authorizing the establishment of a separate exchange area and authorizing the publication, filing and making effective of rates for exchange telephone service at Sawtelle, Los Angeles County, California.

At the present time applicant renders exchange telephone service in the communities of Santa Monica, Venice, Ocean Park, Mar Vista and Sawtelle and their adjacent territories, as one exchange. In this application, Santa Monica Company expresses a desire to sever certain territory from this present exchange area and to operate it as a separate exchange. The territory designated for the proposed exchange area includes Sawtelle, Westgate, Brentwood Park, Brentwood Heights, Bel-Air, Westwood, Westwood Hills, Beverly Glen Canyon and Mandeville Canyon.

Public hearings in this application were held before Examiner Williams on August 30th, and November 2nd, 1928, at Sawtelle and on December 13, 1928, at Los Angeles, where the matter was finally submitted for decision.

It appears that the initiative in the proposal of a

separate exchange for this district was taken by the University Branch of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. The Railroad Commission was informally requested to take the necessary steps for the establishment of a separate exchange with a certain exchange area. The request was transmitted to the Santa Monica Bay Telephone Company for its consideration. Subsequently the present application, which is in agreement with the desires of the University Branch of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, was filed.

The territory proposed to be included in this exchange is located within the City of Los Angeles and in a district recently named "West Los Angeles." It will include the "University of California at Los Angeles" with several thousand student registrations, Occidental College with a large attendance and prospectively the Harvard Military Academy with a large cadet enrollment. That part of this district situated west of Beverly Hills is being rapidly developed by Los Angeles interests. The territory included in the new exchange area has a considerable population, with some sixteen hundred telephones in service. Telephonic communication to points outside the present Santa Monica Exchange Area at present is routed via the City of Santa Monica and should be improved. Testimony was received to the effect that a direct toll route from the new exchange to Los Angeles is contemplated and this project should be consummated.

The establishment of this exchange would result in local exchange telephone rates for service within the exchange area and interexchange telephone rates for service to or from other exchanges. In accordance with the system of interexchange telephone rates generally in effect throughout the State of

California, the interexchange rate for service between this area and the Los Angeles Exchange would be reduced from fifteen (15) to ten (10) cents for an initial period of five minutes, and a rate of five (5) cents for a five minute initial period would be applicable for messages between the new exchange and Santa Monica. Accordingly, the City of Santa Monica strenuously opposed the change in telephone service conditions which would result in a toll charge between the West Los Angeles exchange area and the area included in the City of Santa Monica.

Mr. Earl W. Porter, as Secretary of the Venice Branch of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, strongly opposed the change sponsored by the University Center Branch. Mr. Ronnow, Deputy City Attorney of Los Angeles, stated the viewpoint of the City Attorney's Office to be that the people of Los Angeles would be greatly benefited by the establishment of the proposed exchange. Certain residents of Brentwood Park and others interested in that section gave evidence in protest against its inclusion in the proposed exchange area. Mr. C. F. Mason, Vice-President and General Manager of the Santa Monica Telephone Company, testified that, in his opinion, Brentwood Park should be left in the Santa Monica Exchange Area on account of community interests, and also, on account of the considerable cost to the utility of serving it from the Sawtelle central office. Other interested parties gave testimony in favor of its inclusion in the new exchange. Mr. I. W. Adams, Chairman of the Public Utilities Committee of the University Branch, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, as a witness in this proceeding, stated that the Committee would gladly cooperate with Brentwood in setting a line which

would either include or exclude that area. Mr. J. Y. Blaikie, for California Botanic Gardens, gave testimony favoring the inclusion of that territory, now a part of the Santa Monica Exchange Area, in the proposed West Los Angeles Exchange Area.

It is evident that the establishment of the proposed exchange would result in a potential benefit to the telephone subscribers of the Los Angeles Exchange on account of a decreased toll rate. On the other hand, telephone subscribers in the City of Santa Monica would be inconvenienced by the fixing of a five (5) cent toll rate to the new exchange. Telephone subscribers located in the area of the proposed exchange would be inconvenienced by the five (5) cent rate to Santa Monica, but would be potentially benefitted by the decreased rate to Los Angeles and by reductions in local exchange charges due to decreased mileage charges. A review of all the evidence submitted indicates that a separate West Los Angeles Exchange should be established.

As to the Brentwood Park District, there is evidence in favor of and against its inclusion in the new exchange. It appears proper that no change should be made in the established service in an area until sufficient evidence has been produced to show that the majority of those interested desire it or will be benefited thereby or that other conditions require such change. Accordingly, the Brentwood Park area will not be separated from the Santa Monica Exchange area at this time.

The local exchange telephone rates proposed by applicant for telephone service in the new area are on the same level as those now effective in the Santa Monica Exchange. No objection was made to their being made effective. It is difficult to determine, in advance, the effect of rates in a new exchange;

however, these rates do not appear unreasonable and it will be ordered that they be made effective.

Applicant filed, as Exhibit No. 4 at the hearing, a copy of a letter from The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company in which the information was given that some sixteen months would be necessary in which to provide the cable and equipment required for handling the long distance business from the proposed exchange. The establishment of the new exchange with local exchange telephone rates therefor and toll service over the new route to Los Angeles Exchange should be made effective as of the same date.

Santa Monica Bay Telephone Company should at once make the necessary arrangements with the company or companies which will render the long distance service between the West Los Angeles Exchange and points outside of the area served by applicant so that such service will be fully available at the date of the establishment of the new exchange. Applicant should also arrange to provide toll service between the West Los Angeles Exchange and the Santa Monica Exchange on and after the date of the establishment of the West Los Angeles Exchange or arrange to have the same made available by a Toll Company or Toll Companies.

O R D E R

Santa Monica Bay Telephone Company having requested the Railroad Commission for a certificate authorizing the establishment of a separate exchange area and the filing and making effective of rates for exchange telephone service at Sawtelle, Los Angeles County, California; public hearings having been held, the matter having been submitted and now being

ready for decision;

The Railroad Commission of the State of California finds as a fact that public convenience and necessity require that the Santa Monica Bay Telephone Company establish a separate telephone exchange for service in the territory shown on a map in Exhibit "A", attached hereto. Basing its order on the foregoing finding of fact and such other findings of fact as are contained in the opinion preceding this order, therefore

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Santa Monica Bay Telephone Company shall

(1) Establish and place in operation on or before December 31, 1929, a separate telephone exchange for service in the area shown on a map thereof in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and hereby made a part of this order;

(2) Establish a primary rate area for the West Los Angeles Exchange, as set forth on a map in the above mentioned Exhibit "A";

(3) Establish rates for local exchange telephone service in the West Los Angeles Exchange, as set forth in Exhibit "B," attached hereto and hereby made a part of this order, and rate schedules for other services designed on the same levels as used for similar services under similar conditions in the Santa Monica Exchange, and rules and regulations governing this telephone service, effective on and after the date of the establishment of said exchange;

(4) Submit to the Railroad Commission, for filing, maps showing the exchange and primary rate areas, exchange telephone rates and rules and regulations governing telephone service in West Los Angeles Exchange, as referred to in (1), (2)

and (3) above, on or before the tenth day immediately preceding the date of the establishment of said exchange;

(5) a. Make the necessary arrangements with the Company or Companies now furnishing toll telephone service between the Santa Monica Exchange and outside points for toll service between the West Los Angeles Exchange and toll points outside of the present Santa Monica Exchange at rates set up on the basis generally used in the State of California, effective on and after the date of the establishment of West Los Angeles Exchange;

b. Furnish toll service between the West Los Angeles Exchange and the Santa Monica Exchange at rates set up on the basis generally used in the State of California, or arrange with another Company or Companies for such service at such rates, effective on and after the date of the establishment of the West Los Angeles Exchange;

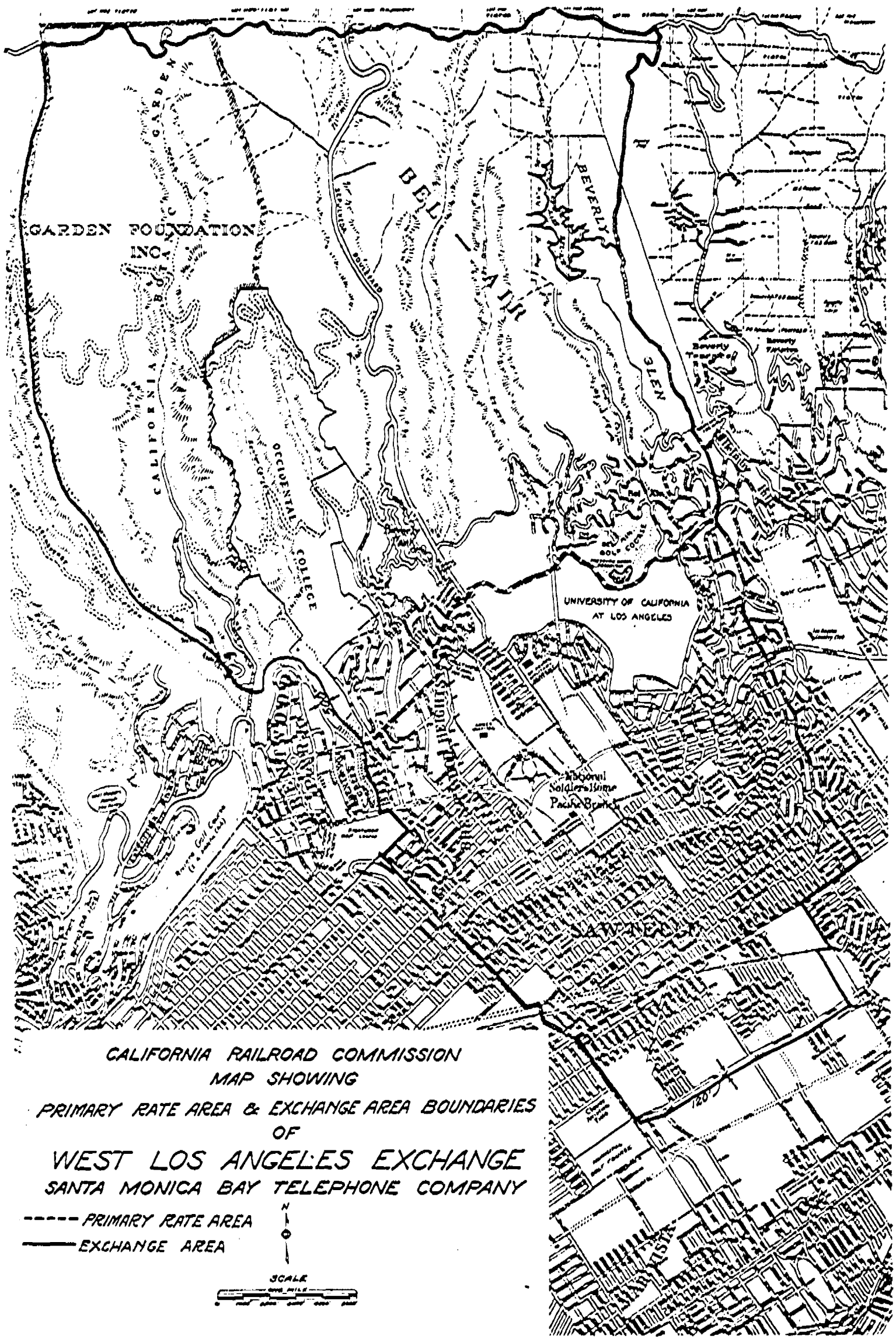
(6) Discontinue all Santa Monica Exchange local exchange telephone service in the area of the West Los Angeles Exchange as of the date of the establishment of said exchange.

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 18th day of February, 1929.

Thos. G. Loutin
W. J. [unclear]
[unclear]
Leon Whitely

EXHIBIT "A"
MAP OF
PRIMARY RATE AREA
AND
EXCHANGE AREA



CALIFORNIA RAILROAD COMMISSION
 MAP SHOWING
 PRIMARY RATE AREA & EXCHANGE AREA BOUNDARIES
 OF
 WEST LOS ANGELES EXCHANGE
 SANTA MONICA BAY TELEPHONE COMPANY

----- PRIMARY RATE AREA
 _____ EXCHANGE AREA

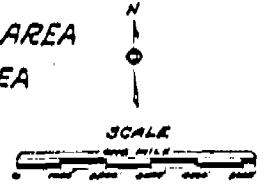


EXHIBIT "B"

RATES

GENERAL SERVICE - FLAT RATE

Applicable to individual and party line, flat rate, exchange service within the primary rate area of the West Los Angeles Exchange.

Rate Per Station Per Month

<u>RATE:</u>	<u>Business Service</u>		<u>Residence Service</u>	
	<u>Wall Set</u>	<u>Desk Set</u>	<u>Wall Set</u>	<u>Desk Set</u>
Individual Line,	\$4.75	\$5.00	\$2.75	\$3.00
Two Party Line,	3.75	4.00	2.25	2.50
Four Party Line,	2.75	3.00	2.00	2.25
Extension-Inside (With or Without Bell and/or Dial)	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
Extension-Outside (with or Without Bell and/or Dial)	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$1.75	\$2.00

CONDITIONS:

(A) Individual and party line service will be provided outside the Primary Rate Area and within the Exchange Area, at the above rates plus mileage rates.

(B) Inside extension equipment at the above rates will be located on the same premises as the primary station.

(C) Outside extension equipment at the above rates in connection with business service will be located off the premises on which the primary station is located but within one-quarter mile, circuit mileage, of the primary station. For stations located at a distance greater than one-quarter mile, circuit mileage, from the primary station, the above rates plus mileage rates are applicable.

(D) Outside extension equipment at the above rates in connection with residence service will be located off the premises on which the primary station is located, but at a distance not exceeding 300 feet from the primary station.

EXCHANGE SERVICE SCHEDULE

OTHER SERVICES

WEST LOS ANGELES

Other Rates and Charges

as may be approved.