

Decision No. 21416.

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
PAJARO VALLEY CONSOLIDATED RAILROAD
COMPANY, a corporation, for an order
authorizing it to abandon its property
and discontinue operations.)
Application
No. 15319.

Morrison, Hohfeld, Foerster,
Shuman & Clark, by
W.L. Holloway, for Applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

Pajaro Valley Consolidated Railroad Company, a corporation, has petitioned the Railroad Commission for an order authorizing it to discontinue its railroad operations in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties and to abandon its property.

A public hearing on this application was conducted by Examiner Handford at San Francisco, the matter was duly submitted and is now ready for decision.

Pajaro Valley Consolidated Railroad Company is a common carrier of passengers, freight and express, by railroad and of passengers by automobile bus, and subject to the jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission. The record shows the corporation to have been organized on December 7, 1897 under the laws of the State of California, a certified copy of the articles of incorporation, as amended, being filed with the application herein.

The rail lines of applicant are as follows:

Main Line.

From Spreckels in Monterey County, in a generally northerly direction down the Salinas Valley to Moss Landing, thence paralleling the Bay of Monterey to the Pajaro Valley and up the Pajaro Valley to a point in the line between Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, distant 28.439 miles from Spreckels; thence in Santa Cruz County to Watsonville, a distance in Santa Cruz County of 0.813 miles. Total length of Main Line -- 27.252 miles.

Alisal Branch.

From Watsonville Junction on the above described main line, 1.67 miles from Spreckels, northeasterly to

Quarry, a total distance within Monterey County of 5.483 miles.

Buena Vista Branch

From Spreckels, southeasterly to Buena Vista, a distance within Monterey County of 5.07 miles.

Salinas Branch

From Spreckels Junction, on the Alisal Branch, 2.446 miles from Spreckels, northwesterly to Salinas, a distance within Monterey County of 2.248 miles.

Total length of all lines 40.033 miles.

Applicant alleges that the purpose of its organization and operation was for the transportation of sugar beets and sugar for the Spreckels Sugar Company; that for many years over ninety percent of its traffic originated with said Spreckels Sugar Company; that the sugar company no longer needs the transportation furnished by applicant and does not offer an adequate tonnage affording a revenue sufficient to meet the operating expenses of the railroad; and that there are no persons, firms or corporations other than the Spreckels Sugar Company interested in the continuation of operation. The Spreckels Sugar Company is the owner of all the shares of the capital stock of the applicant, except those held by directors as qualifying shares.

The record shows the operations of applicant to have been conducted at a substantial loss, a deficit of \$268,572.57 having been accumulated in the period January 1, 1917, to December 31, 1928, inclusive. No freight has been transported for the public, other than the Spreckels Sugar Company, since 1928. No protest was made against the granting of the application.

Upon the record in this proceeding, we are of the opinion and hereby find as a fact that the public convenience and necessity do not require the continued operation by applicant of its railroad service, and that the application should be granted in accordance with the following order.

ORDER

A public hearing having been held on the above entitled application, the matter having been duly submitted, the Commission being now fully advised and basing its order on the finding of fact as appearing in the opinion which precedes this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that applicant, Pajaro Valley Consolidated Railroad Company, a corporation, be and it hereby is authorized to discontinue and abandon its rail service as heretofore conducted as a common carrier in the Counties of Santa Cruz and Monterey, subject to the following conditions:

1- Applicant shall post notice of discontinuance of rail service at all agency stations at least ten (10) days prior to such discontinuance.

2- Applicant shall file, in duplicate, and in accordance with the regulations of this Commission, cancellation of its railroad tariffs and time schedules as now lawfully filed with this Commission, such cancellations to refer to the authority hereby granted.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 1st day of August, 1929.

Thomas D. Lavin

Leon Whelan

W. W. Cunn
COMMISSIONERS.