

Decision No. 21504.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the matter of the application of  
NORTHWESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY,  
for permission to remove station agent  
from its station at Glen Ellen,  
California.

Application No. 15346.

R. W. Palmer, for Applicant.  
A. S. Weston, for Railway Express  
Agency, Inc.  
Emmett J. Donahue, for Protestants.

ORIGINAL

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company requests permission to remove the agent from its Station of Glen Ellen in Sonoma County.

Public hearings were held at Santa Rosa and at Glen Ellen before Examiner Satterwhite on April 8th and June 14th, 1929.

Glen Ellen is the terminus of the Glen Ellen Branch of applicant. The nearest agency to said station is Sonoma, which is distant 6.4 miles south of said Glen Ellen Station. Applicant contends that the amount of business transacted at Glen Ellen does not warrant the maintenance of an agent. Revenues derived at this station for the twelve months' period ending November 30th, 1928, were as follows:

Passenger tickets sold. . . . .	\$ 724.59
Carload freight forwarded and received. . . . .	3,289.45
L.C.L. freight forwarded and received . . . . .	986.74
Expense of maintaining agent . . . . .	1,803.56

Applicant proposes, in the event this application is granted, to place in the care of the engine watchman a key to the

freight house, so that the freight house would be locked and, through him, receivers and shippers of freight would have access to the freight house.

The representative of Railway Express Agency stated that in the event the railroad company's agent was removed that an endeavor would be made to appoint a local resident as agent for his company.

A number of residents of Glen Ellen and vicinity appeared to oppose the granting of this application, contending that an agent should be maintained at this point to care for L.C.L. freight as well as assisting shippers in the routing of carload freight. The carload outbound business is largely perishable products destined to eastern as well as California points.

As far as passenger business is concerned, it can readily be handled by the train conductors. With respect to the carload business, it appears that this class of shipments can be handled at this point without a resident agent. An agent's service, however, is most needed here for the handling of L.C.L. freight, but we find that the revenue derived from this class of business is relatively small, being less than \$1,000.00 per year, and it appears to the Commission that the public service resulting from maintaining an agent at this point does not justify the expense of maintaining the same, which results in an undue burden upon the carrier, particularly when the caretaker here can attend to the L.C.L. business with practically no additional expense.

After due consideration of all the evidence in this proceeding, it appears that the maintenance of an agent at Glen

Ellen is not justifiable and, therefore, this application should be granted.

O R D E R

Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company having made application to abandon its agent at the station of Glen Ellen, Sonoma County, public hearings having been held, the Commission being apprised of the facts, the matter being under submission and ready for decision, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that permission and authority be and it is hereby granted to Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company, a corporation, to abandon its agency at the station of Glen Ellen, located on its Glen Ellen Branch in the County of Sonoma, subject, however, to the following conditions:

- (1) Applicant shall continue the maintenance of said station of Glen Ellen as a non-agency station.
- (2) Applicant shall maintain a caretaker at said station for the purpose of caring for L.C.L. freight.
- (3) Applicant shall post notices at said station of Glen Ellen, notifying the public of the removal of said agent, for at least ten (10) days before said agent is removed.

For all other purposes, the effective date of this order shall be twenty (20) days from and after the date of this order.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 30th day of August, 1929.

Thomas D. Lott

Al. Jensen  
Wm. J. Lott

Leon A. White

M. J. Lott  
Commissioners.