

Decision No. 21752.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of application of the  
NORTHWESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY  
for authority to close agency at Ross,  
County of Marin, State of California.

**ORIGINAL**  
Application No. 15864.

R. L. Hillebrand, for Applicant.

T. P. Boyd, for residents of Ross.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding, Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company requests permission to abandon its agency at Ross Station, Marin County, California.

A public hearing in this matter was conducted by Examiner Satterwhite at Ross on September 17th, 1929.

Ross is located on the electric line of applicant between Sausalito and San Rafael via San Anselmo. The nearest agencies to Ross are San Anselmo, one mile north, and Kentfield, 0.8 miles south.

Applicant contends that the amount of business transacted at Ross does not warrant the maintenance of an agent. Revenues derived from this station for the twelve months' period ending March 31st, 1929, were as follows:

Passenger tickets, single, round trip and commutation, . . . . .	\$9,775.00
Carload freight, . . . . .	1,822.18
Less-than-carload freight, . . . . .	347.11
Expense of maintaining agency, . . . . .	1,928.31

The passenger traffic to and from this territory is largely commutation and round-trip passengers. Fare collections are made on the trains as is the case in practically all suburban areas. With respect to carload freight, it appears that this class of shipment can be handled without a resident agent. An agent's service, however, is most needed for the handling of L.C.L., but we find that the revenue derived from this class of business is small, being less than \$350. per twelve-month period.

The closing of the agency was protested by certain residents of Ross on the ground that baggage could not be properly cared for when delivered at the station and that prospective travellers, who wish to check baggage, must meet the trains that carry baggage. The analysis of the baggage handled shows that an average of approximately one piece per day was received or forwarded, except in June and September, when the average increased to approximately three pieces per day.

After giving due consideration to the record in this proceeding, it appears to the Commission that due to the methods used in collecting fares on trains, a resident agent is not required to handle passenger fares, neither is he needed for the handling of carload freight business. The volume of L.C.L. freight and baggage is so small that it does not warrant the maintenance of an agent, when consideration is given to the fact that an agency is maintained within a distance of one mile in either direction from this station. the application will, therefore, be granted.

#### O R D E R

Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company having made application to abandon its agency at Ross, Marin County, a public hearing 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 to remove and abandon its agency at the Station of Ross, County of Marin, subject, however, to the following conditions:

(1) Applicant shall maintain the station of Ross as a non-agency station.

(2) Applicant shall post notice at said station of Ross, notifying the public of the removal of said agency, 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 the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of ~~October~~ <sup>November</sup>, 1929.

David L. Lott

C. L. Lott

Ernest Lott

M. J. Lott

Commissioners.