

Decision No. 22359.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the application of San Joaquin and Eastern Railroad Company, a corporation, to abandon and discontinue passenger trains on its railroad from Big Creek, California, to El Prado, California.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 16465.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O R D E R

By the above entitled proceeding, the San Joaquin and Eastern Railroad Company seeks permission to discontinue the operation of its passenger train on its line between El Prado and Big Creek, in Fresno County. In the application it is alleged that "for several years last past passenger traffic on said line has steadily decreased, by reason of the fact that the construction operations of Southern California Edison Company Ltd. in and near Big Creek, California, have decreased to such an extent that there is very little need for such passenger service, and that in addition the automobile roads between Fresno and Big Creek and Huntington Lake have been greatly improved, and much of the passenger traffic which would otherwise go by rail now goes by automobile and stage line; that said automobile and stage line service is quicker than that provided by the railroad, and the rates charged by the stage lines are somewhat less than the rates charged by the railroad."

By Decision No. 22239, dated March 20th, 1930, in Application No. 16353, applicant was granted permission to purchase the equipment and operative rights of W. R. Miles Stage Line, operating between Fresno and Big Creek and Huntington Lake. It appears that subsequent to April 1st, 1930, applicant has been operating said stage line under its name and as an adjunct to the operation of its railroad. Exhibit "A", attached to the application, shows that for the year ending December 31st, 1929, the net railway operating deficit for this railroad amounted to \$82,600. Exhibit "C" shows that with the exception of a few months, when large groups were carried by the railroad, occasioned by some special movement, the revenue passengers on this line have averaged slightly more than one per day.

The file shows that a communication was received, under date of April 11th, signed by residents and representatives of thirteen business establishments of Big Creek, the largest town on the line, advising that they had no objection to the granting of the proposed application. The company does not propose to discontinue freight operation and plans to continue the operation of passenger trains if the stage lines are unable to handle the traffic on special occasions.

Under the conditions, it appears that this is not a matter in which a public hearing is necessary and that the application should be granted, provided the public is given reasonable notice of the proposed abandonment; therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the San Joaquin and Eastern Railroad Company be and it is hereby authorized to discontinue the operation of regular passenger train service on its line between El Prado and Big Creek, Fresno County, provided the public is given not less than fifteen (15) days' notice of such proposed change by

posting notices in the stations at El Prado and Big Creek, as well as in the trains.

The Commission reserves the right to make such further orders in this matter as to it may seem right and proper.

The authority herein granted shall become effective on the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 22nd day of April, 1930.

Os. Lauer

Leon Whitell
Mark Lott

W. J. Lee

Commissioners.