

Decision No. 22441.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of CALIFORNIA TRANSIT COMPANY, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to extend its operations from Clovis to El Prado and establish through service between El Prado and Fresno for the transportation of passengers, their baggage and express, consolidating such operations with the remainder of its system.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 16244.

In the Matter of the Application of SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY for authority to discontinue operation of trains Numbers 104 and 105 between Fresno and Friant.

Application No. 16248.

E. W. Hobbs, for California Transit Company, applicant in Application No. 16244, and for Southern Pacific Company, applicant in Application No. 16248.

G. L. Aynesworth, for W. R. Miles Stage Lines and for Tarpey Estate Company, Protestants.

B. F. Woodard and E. R. Davis, for San Joaquin and Eastern Railroad and Southern California Edison Company.

O. L. Russell, for Clovis Chamber of Commerce.

Loren A. Butts, for the City of Fresno.

Edward Stern, for Railway Express Agency, Inc., an interested party.

John Curry and E. E. Bigelow, for California Cattlemen's Association, California Wool Growers' Association and Western Cattlemen's Association, Interveners.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

Application No. 16244 is an application of California Transit Company for a certificate of public convenience and neces-

sity to extend its operations from Clovis to El Prado, in Fresno County, and establish through service between El Prado and Fresno for the transportation of passengers, their baggage and express. Application No. 16248 is an application of Southern Pacific Company for authority to discontinue operation of trains Numbers 104 and 105 between Fresno and Friant. The applications were consolidated for hearing and public hearings were held at Fresno before Examiner Satterwhite on February 18th, March 28th and April 14th, the matters being submitted at the last hearing.

At the hearing on April 14th, 1930, California Transit Company filed a request for dismissal of Application No. 16244 and at this same hearing Southern Pacific Company filed an amendment to Application No. 16248, stating that subsequent to the filing of the original application, W. R. Miles, one of the protestants, had sold the W. R. Miles Stage Line, operating between Fresno, Clovis, Auberry, Toll House and Huntington Lake, to the San Joaquin and Eastern Railroad Company and that Southern Pacific Company, if granted authority to discontinue operation of trains Numbers 104 and 105, would establish, in conjunction with San Joaquin and Eastern Railroad Company, through route and joint rates to all points on said railroad and the stage line formerly known as the W. R. Miles Stage Lines, thereby affording through transportation from and to points on Southern Pacific lines to and from Clovis and all points on the San Joaquin and Eastern Railroad Company.

The trains which Southern Pacific Company desires to abandon form a passenger and mixed train service on the so-called Friant Branch of applicant, the termini of this branch being Fresno and Friant and it passing through El Prado, the westerly terminus of the San Joaquin and Eastern Railroad Company.

Train No. 104 now leaves Fresno at 8:00 A.M., makes a connection with San Joaquin and Eastern train, leaving El Prado at 8:55 A.M., and then proceeds on to Friant. During the interval between the arrival of this equipment at Friant, as Train No. 104, and its departure at 2:35 P.M., as Train No. 105, the crew is engaged in doing the local switching at Friant and other points along the line. In so doing, the work of the regular freight train on this branch is considerably expedited.

In preparing its estimate of the savings that would be effected if trains Nos. 104 and 105 were discontinued, the applicant has allowed for extra expense, in connection with the operation of the regular freight train, and has attempted to prepare an estimate based entirely on the cost of the passenger train operations of the crew and equipment. While we are inclined to believe that the savings, as estimated, are somewhat greater than those that will actually accrue, it is apparent that the discontinuance of this train will result in a considerable saving in operating expense.

The chief public necessity for these trains in the past has been the connection with the San Joaquin and Eastern Railroad at El Prado. With the discontinuance of passenger train operation by the San Joaquin and Eastern Railroad, which was authorized by the Commission in Decision No. 22359 in Application No. 16465 on April 22nd, 1930, this reason for the operation of trains Nos. 104 and 105 disappears. Other than effecting this connection, the principal advantage of operating on a regular schedule appears to be that in the past the schedule of train No. 105 has proved a convenience to shippers of livestock in the vicinity of Friant, in that it permits a connection at Fresno with a livestock train to Los Angeles. Applicant has agreed that if permission for the withdrawal

of trains Nos. 104 and 105 is granted, it will provide these shippers with comparable service, furnishing special engine service if required.

The number of passengers using the train appears to be negligible, the average being but three per day on each train. Practically all of the passengers now using the train will be accommodated by existing bus service and we are, therefore, of the opinion that public convenience and necessity no longer require the operation of these trains.

O R D E R

California Transit Company having filed Application No. 16244, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to extend its operations from Clovis to El Prado, and having, on April 14th, 1930, requested that said application be dismissed,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Application No. 16244 be and it is hereby dismissed.

Southern Pacific Company having filed Application No. 16248, requesting authority to discontinue operation of trains Numbers 104 and 105 between Fresno and Friant, public hearings having been held, the matter having been submitted and now being ready for decision,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that permission and authority be and it is hereby granted to Southern Pacific Company to discontinue operation of its trains Numbers 104 and 105 between Fresno and Friant, subject to the following conditions:

(1) Applicant shall give the public not less than ten (10) days' notice of such change, posting notices in trains Nos. 104 and 105 and at passenger stations at which said trains now regularly stop.

(2) Applicant shall at all times provide such train service as may be required, in connection with livestock shipments, to permit said shipments of livestock to make the same main line train connections at Fresno as are possible under the existing service.

(3) Applicant shall establish, in connection with San Joaquin and Eastern Railroad Company, through routes and joint rates to all points on said railroad and the stage line formerly known as W. R. Miles Stage Line.

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 17th day of May, 1930.

C. Seaver
Frank J. Coyle

Thos. L. Gifford

M. J. Carr

Commissioners.