

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 22451.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of CALIFORNIA WESTERN RAILROAD & NAVIGATION COMPANY, for Permission to Change Passenger Time Schedules, and to Discontinue the Operation of its Trains Nos. 3 and 4, between Fort Bragg and Willits, California.	Application No. 16447.
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Sanborn, Roehl, Smith & Brookman,
 By W. H. Kessler, for applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this application California Western Railroad & Navigation Company requests the Commission for authority to change its passenger train schedules and discontinue the operation of its trains Nos. 3 and 4 between Fort Bragg and Willits, Mendocino County.

A public hearing was held at Willits on April 28, 1930, before Examiner Williams.

Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company now operates its trains between San Francisco and Eureka on schedules under which the northbound and southbound trains meet at Willits between 1:00 and 2:00 P.M. and between 2:00 and 3:00 A.M. California Western Railroad & Navigation Company, the applicant in this proceeding, effects a connection at Willits to the afternoon Northwestern Pacific trains by trains Nos. 1 and 2 and by trains Nos. 3 and 4 to the Northwestern Pacific night trains. In the past, Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company's night trains Nos. 3 and 4 have carried pullman sleeping cars between Sausalito and Willits, this car being set out at Willits for the accommoda-

tion of passengers. The schedule of trains Nos. 3 and 4 of California Western Railroad & Navigation Company was designed to permit passengers, whose destinations were between Willits and Fort Bragg, to occupy this pullman car until 8:00 A.M., leaving Willits on California Western Railroad & Navigation Company's train No. 4 at 8:15 A.M., and also to permit passengers from Fort Bragg to points south of Willits to retire in the pullman car at Willits at any time after the arrival of train No. 3 at 8:15 P.M.

Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company has now discontinued the handling of this Willits pullman car between Sausalito and Willits and it is now necessary for passengers from the night trains of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad to lay over in Willits from their arrival between 2:00 and 3:00 A.M. until 8:15 A.M. and passengers from the California Western Railroad & Navigation Company must wait in Willits from 8:15 P.M. until between 2:00 and 3:00 A.M. the following morning.

California Western Railroad & Navigation Company proposes to discontinue its trains Nos. 3 and 4 and to provide mixed train service on its trains Nos. 61 and 62, which will arrive at Willits from Fort Bragg at 11:30 P.M. and depart from Willits for Fort Bragg at 3:00 A.M., thereby effecting closer connections with Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company's trains Nos. 3 and 4 than those now in effect.

Applicant operates a track motor car on the schedules of trains Nos. 3 and 4 and uses the same car for trains Nos. 1 and 2. It is claimed that if the operation of trains Nos. 3 and 4 is continued, it will be necessary, in order to carry out proper equipment maintenance, to either establish a shop at Willits

or to purchase an additional motor car. The revenue from passenger business has steadily diminished during the past few years, local ticket sales at Willits having declined from \$18,456., in 1921, to \$5,413., in 1929, with sales for 1930 estimated at less than \$5,000. In view of this decline in patronage and the fact that it is unlikely that passenger business will ever again be an important factor in the operation of this railroad, expenditures for additional passenger equipment do not appear justified.

From exhibits presented at the hearing, it appears that if the proposed substitution is carried out a saving of approximately \$5,500. in operating expenses per year can be effected and, since under the proposed arrangement the public would be as well or better served, it is the opinion of the Commission that the application should be granted.

O R D E R

California Western Railroad & Navigation Company having filed an application to discontinue the operation of its trains Nos. 3 and 4, between Fort Bragg and Willits, California, a public hearing having been held, the matter being submitted and ready for decision,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that California Western Railroad & Navigation Company be and it is hereby authorized to discontinue operation of its trains Nos. 3 and 4 between Willits and Fort Bragg, daily, subject to the following conditions:

(1) Applicant shall give at least five (5) days' notice to the public by posting notices in the cars and at the stations

where these trains now regularly stop.

(2) Coincident with the discontinuance of these trains, applicant shall provide passenger accommodations on its trains Nos. 61 and 62 and shall operate said trains on schedules that will permit convenient connections with Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company's trains Nos. 3 and 4 at Willits.

(3) The Commission reserves the right to make such further orders in this proceeding as to it may seem necessary.

The effective date of this order shall be the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 20th day of May, 1930.

Al Leacey
Ernest J. ...
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Commissioners.