

Decision No. 24370.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application of Southern Pacific Company for authority to close the agency at Madison Station, County of Yolo, State of California, during the period December 1st to July 31st, inclusive, of each year.

Application No. 17681.

Roy G. Hillebrandt, for applicant.
J. J. Deuel, for protestant, California Farm Bureau Federation.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this application Southern Pacific Company requests authority to discontinue its agency at Madison, Yolo County, during the period from December 1st of each year to and including July 31st of the following year.

Public hearing was held on this application at Woodland December 1st, 1931, by Examiner Kennedy and at this hearing the matter was submitted.

Madison is an agency station on the Rumsey Branch of the Southern Pacific Company, located about three miles east of Esparto (compass direction) and eleven miles west of Winters, these being the nearest agency stations. A mixed train is operated on the Rumsey Branch daily except Sunday and is scheduled

to leave Elmira, the junction point with the main line, at 6:00 A.M., passing through Madison outbound at 8:30 and inbound at 11:30 P.M.

At the hearing applicant presented an exhibit showing the amount of business done at this station for the past two years, during the months it is proposed to close the agency. This exhibit indicates that the revenue, particularly the less-than-carload revenue, has declined materially during the last year. Some of the figures shown on the exhibit are as follows:

	Dec. 1st, 1929 to <u>July 31st, 1930</u>	Dec. 1st, 1930 to <u>July 31st, 1931</u>
Carload Revenue,	\$8,171.	\$5,959.
Less-than-carload Revenue,	975.	391.
Passenger Revenue,	33.	21.
	<u>\$9,179.</u>	<u>\$6,371.</u>

In a statement attached to the application the revenue, by months, is shown and it appears that the total freight revenue in 1930, during the four months' period it is proposed to keep the agency open, was \$46,415. The exhibit shows that the expense of operating this station during the eight month period from December 1st to July 31st is approximately \$1,040. and it is the applicant's contention that the amount of less-than-carload business handled during this period does not warrant the expense of an agent. If the application is granted the Company will continue to maintain Madison as a non-agency station during the months that no agent is maintained and applicant has arranged with a local resident regarding the custody of the key to the freight house.

The granting of the application was protested by the

California Farm Bureau and residents of the community, their chief protest being that the past year has been one of abnormally low water conditions, and that in an ordinary year there would be sufficient revenue during the eight month period to warrant the continuance of an agent throughout the entire year. From examination of the protestants' witnesses, it appears the crops grown in the vicinity of Madison are ready for shipment during the months of September and October and the data furnished by the Company supports this testimony. Under the Company's plan an agency will be maintained during this harvest season and for a period of one month before and after.

After carefully considering the record in this proceeding, it appears reasonable that the Company should be permitted to discontinue its agency at Madison during the off-peak season since there is an agency maintained within a distance of three miles, at Esparto.

An Order granting the application will be entered in this proceeding.

O R D E R

Southern Pacific Company having made application for authority to discontinue its agency at Madison on its Rumsey Branch in Yolo County during the months from December 1st of each year to July 31st of the following year, public hearing having been held and the matter submitted and ready for decision,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Southern Pacific Company is hereby authorized to discontinue its agency at said station and to change its station records and tariffs accordingly, provided that said station be continued as ^{an} ~~an~~ agency station during the months of August, September, October and November of each

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year.

Applicant shall each year notify the public ten (10) days in advance of the closing of said agency by posting a notice at a conspicuous location at said station.

Applicant shall each year, within ten (10) days from the date of closing said agency, notify this Commission, in writing, that said agency has been closed.

The authorization herein granted shall lapse and become void if not exercised within one (1) year from the date hereof unless further time is granted by subsequent order.

The effective date of this Order shall be twenty (20) days from the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 4th day of January, 1932.

C. C. Kelley
Leon White
M. A. Lee
M. B. Harris
Fred G. Stewart
 Commissioners.