

Decision No. 21858.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application of
(a) Southern Pacific Company for
authority to close its agency at
Cisco Station, County of Placer,
State of California, and (b) Railway
Express Agency, Inc. for authority to
abandon its agency at said Station.

Application No. 17938.

Roy G. Hillebrand, for Applicant Southern Pacific
Company.
G. R. McManus, for Applicant Railway Express
Agency, Inc.
W. P. Brooks, in Propria Persona.
Mrs. R. L. Rowley, in Propria Persona.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In the above entitled proceeding Southern Pacific Company joined by Railway Express Agency, Inc., petitioned the Railroad Commission for authority to close their seasonal agency at Cisco Station, Placer County, California, which is now maintained during the six months' period from May 15th to November 15th, inclusive, each year.

A public hearing was conducted by Examiner Johnson at Cisco on May 31, 1932, at which time evidence was taken and the matter submitted.

Cisco is located on the main line of Southern Pacific Company's Sacramento Division. The nearest existing agency stations to Cisco are Truckee, 27.7 miles to the east, and Towle, 23.5 miles to the west. Cisco is more or less of a summer resort with practically no population during the winter months.

Southern Pacific Company presented an exhibit showing a comparative statement of business handled at this station during two six months' periods, one ending November 15, 1930 and the other November 15, 1931. This exhibit is, in part, as follows:

	: May 15, to : May 15, to :		: Nov. 15, 1930 : Nov. 15, 1931:	
<u>Passengers and Revenue</u>				
Agents Report (Passengers)	142		27	
Agency Report (Revenue)		\$393.		\$75.
Milk and Cream (Cans)	347		72	
Milk and Cream (Revenue)		\$67.		\$27.
<u>Freight Forwarded & Received</u>				
Less than Carload (Tons)	119		31	
Less than Carload (Revenue)		\$1,560.		\$381.
Total Ticket Sales, Milk and Cream and Less than Carload (Revenue)				
		\$2,020.		\$483.
<u>Carloads Received & Forwarded</u>				
Carloads Received & Forwarded (Carload Revenue)	48		68*	
		\$8,356.		\$6,397.
Grand Total (Revenue)		\$10,376.		\$6,880.

* 60 carloads of highway construction material received and 8 cars of cattle forwarded.

This tabulation shows that the business conducted during the six months' period ending November 15, 1931, as compared to the same period in 1930, reflects a loss in revenue of \$3,496., or a decrease of approximately 34 per cent. The total direct station expense over the same period amounted to \$963., or an average of \$161. per month, the principal item being the agent's salary. The total revenue, excluding that derived from carload business, is approximately one-half of station expense.

Southern Pacific Company introduced evidence to show that the station expense is only a small part of the total expense in handling shipments. Exhibit No. 1 shows that during 1931, on the Southern Pacific Company's lines station expense amounted to but 7.55 per cent of the total expense of operation.

The revenue of the Railway Express Agency, Inc. during the six months' period ending November 1, 1931, for express shipments forwarded and received at Cisco amounted to \$162.18. In the past, the Southern Pacific Company's agent has acted as express agent at this point on a commission basis. Railway Express Agency, Inc. alleges that in view of the small amount of remuneration no outside party is available to handle the agency in case Southern Pacific should be permitted to withdraw its agent.

Applicant Southern Pacific Company proposes to arrange to store less-than-carload shipments in its warehouse under lock and key; also, if the application is granted the company phone located in the waiting room of the depot is to be made available to patrons to communicate with agents at Truckee for the purpose of ordering cars, obtaining information, or for other railroad business.

The granting of the application was protested by the Cisco Inn Hotel Company, as well as three other local interested parties on the ground that inconvenience and possible loss of property values would result through the closing of the agency and that they would be deprived of the service of receiving notice of the arrival of less-than-carload freight and express shipments.

After carefully considering the evidence in this proceeding, the Commission believes that the amount of business offered to Southern Pacific Company during the six months' period the agency has been maintained (May 15th to November 15th, inclusive), does not justify the expense of maintaining an agent at this point and, therefore, this application should be granted.

The application of Railway Express Agency, Inc. also should be granted, authorizing the closing of the agency over the same period, since it appears that there is no one available to handle the express agency on a part time basis and the amount of business does not

warrant the company maintaining a separate agency at Cisco.

O R D E R

A public hearing having been held on the above entitled proceeding, the matter having been duly submitted and the Commission being now fully advised, and basing its Order on the findings of fact as appearing in the Opinion which precedes this Order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Southern Pacific Company, a corporation, be and it is hereby authorized to abandon its seasonal agency at Cisco, Placer County, California, during the six months' period May 15th to November 15th of each year and change its station records and tariffs accordingly, provided that said station be continued as a non-agency station, and

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that applicant, Railway Express Agency, Inc., a corporation, is hereby authorized to abandon its seasonal agency at Cisco, Placer County, California, during the six months' period, May 15th to November 15th of each year, and to change its records and tariffs accordingly, and

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that the authorization herein granted is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The abandonment of this agency shall not result in an increase in fare for passengers boarding trains at this point.
- (2) Applicants shall notify the public of the abandonment of said seasonal agency by posting notice for at least ten (10) days in a conspicuous place at said station of Cisco.
- (3) Applicants shall continue said station as a non-agency station.

- (4) Railway Express Agency shall continue to handle express shipments moving into or out of said point provided they are tendered to or received by express messenger at car door on trains stopping at said point.
- (5) Southern Pacific Company shall store less-than-carload freight shipments under lock and key in its warehouse, and the company phone located in the waiting room of the station shall be available to patrons; the keys to both the warehouse and the telephone shall be obtainable from a custodian located in the station and notice shall be maintained at both the warehouse and telephone box advising patrons where key can be secured.
- (6) Applicants shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter notify this Commission, in writing, of the abandonment herein authorized and of their compliance with the conditions hereof.
- (7) 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 authority herein granted shall become effective on the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 13th day of June, 1932.

C. Deane
Leon Whitely
M. J. Cunn
W. B. Harris
Fred G. Stewart
 Commissioners.