

Decision No. 21880.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application
of (a) SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY
for authority to close its agency
at Cartago Station, County of Inyo,
State of California, and (b) RAIL-
WAY EXPRESS AGENCY, INC. for author-
ity to abandon its agency at said
station.

Application No. 18190.

ORIGINAL

BY THE COMMISSION:

ORDER

This is a joint application filed by Southern Pacific Company and Railway Express Agency, Inc., seeking authority to close their agency station at Cartago in Inyo County

Accompanying the application is a comparative statement showing the amount of business transacted by the Southern Pacific at said station during the two-year period ending December 31, 1930, and 1931, as follows:

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY

<u>Items</u>	<u>Year 1930</u>	<u>Year 1931</u>
Passenger tickets sold,.....	7	14
Number of less-than-carload shipments received,.....	448	145
Number of less-than-carload shipments forwarded,.....	14	14
Number of carload shipments received,.....	621	421
Number of carload shipments forwarded,.....	838	597

The revenue of Railway Express Agency, Inc. during

the twelve-month period from March 1, 1931, to the following February 29, 1932, for all express shipments forwarded and received at Cartago amounted to \$597.75. In the past, Southern Pacific Company's agent has acted as express agent at this point on a commission basis. Railway Express Agency, Inc. alleges that no outside party is available to handle the agency in case Southern Pacific Company should be permitted to withdraw its agent in view of the small amount of remuneration.

It is alleged in the application that the abandonment of said agency will not involve the abandonment of any facilities; that the station will be continued as a non-agency station and that, in applicants' opinion, the continued maintenance of the agency is not necessary for the business of applicants or for the public. The nearest agency to the north of Cartago is Lone Pine, located a distance of 21 miles. To the south, the nearest existing agency is at Inyokern, a distance of 50.5 miles, the next station to the south being Searles, a distance of 69 miles. Applicant, Southern Pacific Company, has heretofore filed an application seeking authority to close its agency at Inyokern.

The California Farm Bureau Federation signified that it does not object to the granting of this application.

A member of the Transportation Division of the Commission's Engineering Department has made an investigation of this matter and his report, based on an interview with interested shippers and receivers of freight, indicated there is no serious objection to the granting of this application.

Southern Pacific Company has indicated that if the application is granted it plans to take care of less-than-car-load shipments by storing them in the warehouse under lock and

key and that the Company telephone located outside of depot is to be made available to patrons to communicate with the agent at Lone Pine for the purpose of ordering cars, obtaining information or for any other railroad business.

It appears that a public hearing is not necessary herein and that the application should be granted, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Southern Pacific Company and Railway Express Agency, Inc., respectively, are hereby authorized to close their joint agency at Cartago, located on the Owenyo Branch of the Southern Pacific Company on its San Joaquin Division in Inyo County, California, and to change their respective records and tariffs accordingly, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Said agency is to be continued as a non-agency station.
- (2) Southern Pacific Company shall store less-than-carload shipments under lock and key in the Company warehouse and the railroad telephone located at this station shall be made available to patrons. The key to both the warehouse and telephone shall be obtainable from a custodian located near said station, notice of which shall be maintained at both warehouse and telephone, advising shippers where key can be secured.
- (3) Railway Express Agency, Inc. shall continue to handle express shipments moving into or out of said point, provided they are tendered to or received by an express messenger at car door of trains stopping at said point.
- (4) Applicants shall give the public at least ten (10) days' notice prior to the abandonment of said agency by posting notice in a conspicuous place at said station.
- (5) 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.
- (6) The authorization herein granted shall lapse

