

Decision No. 24320.

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 Templeton Station, County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, and (b) Railway Express Agency, Inc. for authority to abandon its agency at said station.

Application No. 18055.

Roy G. Hillebrand, for Applicant Southern Pacific Company.
Edward Stern, for Applicant Railway Express Agency.
J. J. Deuel, for the Protestants.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

This is an application by Southern Pacific Company and Railway Express Agency, Inc. to close their joint agency at the station of Templeton, San Luis Obispo County. A public hearing was held at Paso Robles by Examiner Johnson on June 7, 1932, and at this hearing the matter was duly submitted and is now ready for decision.

Templeton is located on the main Coast Line of the Southern Pacific Company 5.5 miles south of Paso Robles and 4.9 miles north of Atascadero, applicants maintaining agencies at both of these adjacent stations. Templeton is a shipping point for an agricultural and stock-raising area. The principal commodities shipped from this point appear to be stock and charcoal, approximately eighty per cent of the total carload shipments

being these products. During years with normal crops possibly there would be some movement of fruit and nuts.

Applicant, Southern Pacific Company, presented an exhibit showing the railroad business handled at this point for the past two years. Some of the data shown on this exhibit has been reproduced in the following table:

	<u>Year Ending April 30, 1931.</u>	<u>Year Ending April 30, 1932.</u>
<u>Freight Forwarded and Received:</u>		
Carloads (cars)	364	86
Less-carload shipments (tons)	152	61
Carload revenue	\$24,379.	\$7,710.
Less-carload revenue	\$2,205.	\$997.
<u>Passenger Service:</u>		
Number of Passenger tickets sold	187	109
Passenger revenue (Agency Reports)	\$1,022	\$359.
<u>Station Data:</u>		
Pieces of baggage handled	85	42
Number of waybills made	334	131
Number of freight bills made	953	517
Western Union messages	684	507

It appears that during the first period shown above a state highway was under construction in the vicinity of Templeton and that a considerable portion of the carload revenue accrued from inbound shipments of materials for this work. There is, however, a substantial falling off in regular business at this station and the total revenue from less-than-carload shipments and passenger service during the twelve-month period ending April 30, 1932, was less than the cost of operating the agency.

In the event the application is granted, Southern Pacific Company proposes to make the company telephone available to the public in order that its patrons may have direct communication with the adjacent agencies at Paso Robles and Atascadero. The key to the freight house also will be left with a local merchant

whose place of business is located in the vicinity of the station. Patrons can arrange to secure notification of arrival of shipments through the agents at the adjacent stations.

The agent for Southern Pacific Company also acts as the agent for Railway Express Agency, Inc. at Templeton and the latter company alleges that if Southern Pacific Company's agency is closed it will be necessary to close the express agency, as it has been unable to secure a local resident to act as agent. It appears that the passenger trains which carry express in and out of Templeton stop at this point outside of the regular business hours and in order to meet these trains it will be necessary for an agent, in addition to his regular duties, to be at the station at 2:00 A.M. and approximately 6:30 A.M. The amount of express business is not large, averaging fifty-six shipments per month, producing a total revenue for the year ending January, 1932, of \$747.66.

Both applications were protested by local residents. However, none of the persons designated as the principal users of its freight service by Southern Pacific Company in its application, testified. The Commission appreciates the position of the residents of Templeton in this matter and their desire to retain, if possible, the convenience of an agent representing the railroad and the express company in their community, but we do not believe that the nature and extent of the shipments to and from this point warrant the expense involved.

We are of the opinion that only slight inconvenience to the public will result by the closing of this station and that the savings that can thereby be effected are desirable.

The application, therefore, will be granted.

O R D E R

Southern Pacific Company, a corporation, and Railway Express Agency, Inc., having applied for authority to abandon their respective agencies at Templeton, San Luis Obispo County, California, a public hearing having been held and the matter having been submitted and being now ready for decision,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that applicant, Southern Pacific Company, is hereby authorized to abandon its agency at Templeton, San Luis Obispo County, California, on ten (10) days' notice to the public and to this Commission, and to change its station records and tariffs accordingly, provided that said station be continued as a non-agency station.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that applicant, Railway Express Agency, Inc., is hereby authorized to abandon its agency at Templeton, San Luis Obispo County, California, on ten (10) days' notice to the public and to this Commission, and to change its station records and tariffs accordingly, provided that applicant will continue to receive and deliver shipments from and to said station at the car door of trains stopping at said point.

Applicants shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter notify this Commission, in writing, of the abandonment of the facilities authorized herein and of its compliance with the conditions hereof.

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 ten (10) days from the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 27th day of June, 1932.

W. J. [unclear]
Leon [unclear]
M. J. [unclear]
M. B. [unclear]
Frederic G. [unclear]
Commissioners.