

Decision No. 25190.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of (a) SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY for authority to close the agency at Aromas Station, County of Monterey, State of California, during the period, November 1st to April 30th, inclusive, of each year, and (b) Railway Express Agency, Inc. for authority to close its agency at said Station during the said period, November 1st to April 30th, inclusive, of each year.

**ORIGINAL**

Application No. 18179.

BY THE COMMISSION:

ORDER

Southern Pacific Company, a corporation, joined by Railway Express Agency, Inc., a corporation, on May 26, 1932, applied, in the above entitled application, for authority to close their joint agency at Aromas Station in Monterey County, State of California, during the six months' period beginning November 1st of each year and ending April 30th of the following year.

Accompanying the application is a comparative statement showing the amount of business transacted by Southern Pacific Company at said station during the two years' period ending the last of February, 1932, as follows:

Items	:Year Ending :Feb. 28, 1931	: Year Ending : : Feb. 29, 1932:
Passenger tickets sold,	249	148
Number of less-than-carload shipments received,	942	646
Number of less-than-carload shipments forwarded,	75	75
Number of carload shipments received,	13	112
Number of carload shipments fwd.	7	11

The revenue of the Railway Express Agency, Inc. during the twelve months' period ending June 30, 1931, for all express shipments forwarded and received at Aromas, amounted to \$1,418.32. In the past, Southern Pacific Company's agent at this point has acted as express agent on a commission basis. Railway Express Agency, Inc. alleges that in view of the small amount of remuneration during the period the station is proposed to be closed no outside party is available to handle the agency in case Southern Pacific Company should withdraw its agent.

A study of the records shows that approximately 80 per cent of the railroad revenue and 78 per cent of the express revenue over a year's period is revenue received during the six months' period from May 1st to October 31st, inclusive.

It is alleged in the application that the proposed seasonal abandonment of said joint agency does not contemplate the abandonment of any facilities; that the station will be continued as a non-agency, and that in applicant's opinion the continued maintenance of this agency is not necessary for the business of the applicants or for the public. The nearest existing agency stations to Aromas are Watsonville Junction, 5.8 miles to the south, and Sargent, 7.5 miles to the north.

California Farm Bureau Federation and Monterey Farm Bureau have signified, in writing, that they will not oppose the granting of this application.

A member of the Transportation Division of the Commission's Engineering Department made an investigation of the matter and his report, based on an interview with representatives of the Farm Bureaus and interested shippers and receivers of freight, indicate there is no serious objection, from the standpoint of the railroad service, to the granting of this application.

Southern Pacific Company has indicated that if the application is granted it plans to take care of the less-than-carload shipments by storing them in the warehouse under lock and key and that the company's telephone located outside of the depot is to be made available to patrons to communicate with the agent at Watsonville Junction for the purpose of ordering cars or obtaining information 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 agency at Aromas, located on the Southern Pacific Company's main line of its Coast Division in Monterey County, from approximately November 1st of each year to April 30th of the following year, and to change their respective records and tariffs accordingly, subject to the following conditions:

1. The seasonal abandonment of this agency shall not result in an increase in fare for Southern Pacific Company's passengers boarding train at this point.
2. Southern Pacific Company shall operate said station of Aromas as a non-agency station during the time the agency is not maintained.
3. Southern Pacific Company shall store less-than-carload shipments under lock and key in the company's warehouse and the railroad telephone, located at this station, shall be available to patrons. The keys to both 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 the keys may be secured.
4. Upon the seasonal closing, Railway Express Agency, Inc. shall continue to handle express shipments in and out of said point provided they are tendered to, or received by, express messenger at car door of train stopping at said station.

5. Applicants shall, each year, notify the public, ten days in advance of the closing of said agency, by posting a notice in a conspicuous location at said station and also advise this Commission of said closing.
6. Applicants shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter notify this Commission 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 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1932.

*C. Kearney*  
*Leon Whiteley*  
*W. J. Carr*  
*M. B. Harris*  
*Fred G. Stewart*