

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 25263.

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
Stirling City, County of Butte, State
of California, and (b) RAILWAY EXPRESS
AGENCY, INC. for authority to abandon
its agency at said station.

Application No. 18335.

BY THE COMMISSION:

ORDER

This is a joint application filed by Southern Pacific Company, a corporation, and Railway Express Agency, Inc., a corporation, seeking authority to close their agencies at Stirling City, in Butte County, State of California.

Accompanying the application is a comparative statement showing the amount of business transacted at said station during the two-year period ending June 30, 1932, as follows:

<u>Items</u>	<u>Year Ending June 30th</u>	
	<u>1931</u>	<u>1932</u>
Passenger tickets sold,	28	31
Number of Less-than-Carload Shipments Received,	1,719	1,173
Number of Less-than-Carload Shipments Forwarded,	63	39
Number of Carload Shipments Received,	93	58
Number of Carload Shipments Forwarded,	1,766	1,273

Railway Express Agency, Inc. revenue during the twelve months' period ending June 30, 1932, for all express shipments forwarded and received at Stirling City amounted to \$693.51. 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, due to the small amount of remuneration.

Stirling City is located at the end of Southern Pacific Company's Stirling City branch. The nearest agency to the west is Chico, located a distance of 31.2 miles.

In this proceeding applicant proposes to continue the agency as a non-agency station. The plan does not contemplate the abandonment of any facilities.

California Farm Bureau Federation has signified, in writing, that it does not object to the granting of this application.

A report of a representative of the Commission's Engineering Department, based upon a field investigation, including an interview with interested shippers and receivers of freight, shows that applicant can provide reasonable service to its patrons at this point through the operation of a non-agency station and that the principal shippers have indicated that they will not object to the granting of the application.

Southern Pacific Company has indicated that if the application is granted, it plans to take care of 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 Chico for the purpose of ordering cars or obtaining other railroad information. Train operation on this line consists of mixed train service operated triweekly.

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 stations at Stirling City, located on Southern Pacific Company's Stirling City branch on its Sacramento Division, in Butte 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 by Southern Pacific Company.
- (2) The abandonment of this agency shall not result in an increase in fares to Southern Pacific Company passengers boarding trains at this point.
- (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 made available to its patrons. The key to both warehouse and telephone shall be obtainable from a custodian located at or near said station, notice of which shall be maintained at both warehouse and telephone advising shippers where key may be secured.
- (4) Applicants shall give the public at least ten (10) days' notice prior to the abandonment of said agency by posting a 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 its compliance with the conditions hereof.
- (6) The authorization herein granted shall lapse and become void if not exercised within one (1) year from the date hereof,

(6) (Continued)

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 17th day of October, 1932.

Al Seaver

Leon A. ...

W. A. ...

M. B. ...

Fred G. Stewart

Commissioners.