

Decision No. 35294.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of
(a) SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY for an
order authorizing it to close the
agency at Altamont Station, County of
Alameda, State of California, and (b)
RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY, INC. for an
order authorizing it to abandon its
agency at said station.

Application No. 18438.

ORIGINAL

BY THE COMMISSION:

ORDER

Southern Pacific Company, a corporation, joined by Railway Express Agency, Inc., on September 29, 1932, applied for authority to close their joint agency at Altamont Station, in Alameda County, State of California.

Accompanying the application is a comparative statement showing the amount of business transacted by Southern Pacific Company at said station during the two-year period ending July 31, 1932, as follows:

<u>Items</u>	<u>Year Ending July 31st</u>	
	<u>1931</u>	<u>1932</u>
Passenger Tickets Sold.....	150	209
Number of Less-than-Carload Shipments Received.....	81	66
Number of Less-than-Carload Shipments Forwarded.....	46	24
Number of Carload Shipments Received....	10	6
Number of Carload Shipments Forwarded...	158	68

Railway Express Agency, Inc., reports that the revenue during the 12-month period ending August 31, 1932, for all express shipments forwarded and received at Altamont amounted to \$40.39. In the past Southern Pacific Company's agent 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 that the nearest agencies to Altamont Station are Livermore, located a distance of 8.1 miles south, and Tracy, located a distance of 15.8 miles north. The abandonment of said agency will not involve the abandonment of any facilities. The station will be continued as a non-agency station and, in applicants' opinion the continued maintenance of the agency is not necessary for the business of applicants or for the public.

The California Farm Bureau Federation has signified, in writing, 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 and his report shows that the shippers and receivers of freight and express business at Altamont have indicated they will not oppose the granting of this 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 warehouse under lock and key and the company telephone, located outside of depot, is to be made available to patrons to communicate with the adjacent agents for the purpose of ordering cars or for 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 agencies at Altamont, located on Southern Pacific Company's main line of its Western Division, in Alameda 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) 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 company warehouse and 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, and notice advising shippers where key may be secured shall be maintained at both warehouse and telephone.
- (4) Railway Express Agency, Inc., shall continue to handle express shipments moving into or out of said point providing they are tendered to or received from an express messenger at car door of trains stopping at said point.
- (5) Applicants shall give the public at least ten (10) days' notice prior to the abandonment of this agency by posting notice in a conspicuous place at said station.
- (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.

The authorization herein granted shall become effective on the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 24th day of October, 1932.

C. Deaver
Leon A. White
M. J. Lee
W. B. Karpis
Fred G. Stewart
Commissioners.