

Decision No. 25437.

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 Chatsworth Station, County of Los
Angeles, State of California, and (b)
RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY, INC. for an order
authorizing it to abandon its agency at
said station.

Application No. 18366.

ORIGINAL

BY THE COMMISSION:

O R D E R

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 Chatsworth, in Los Angeles County, California.

Accompanying the application is a comparative statement showing the amount of business transacted at said station during the two-year period ending May 31, 1932. A summary of this statement follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Year Ending May 31st</u>	
	<u>1931</u>	<u>1932</u>
Passenger tickets sold.....	119	94
Number of less-than-carload shipments received.....	131	109
Number of less-than-carload shipments forwarded.....	22	35
Number of carload shipments received.....	17	9
Number of carload shipments forwarded.....	14	11

A study of the company's station records shows that during the twelve months' period ending July 31, 1932, the revenue was as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Revenue for Year Ending July 31, 1932</u>	
Passenger tickets sold.....	\$ 268.22	
Less-than-carload shipments received and forwarded.....	<u>582.73</u>	
Sub-total.....		\$ 850.95
Carload shipments received and forwarded.....		<u>5,107.69</u>
Total Revenue.....		\$5,958.64

Agent's salary during same period amounted to \$1,866.53.

From the above account it appears that the principal need of an agent is to take care of the less-than-carload shipments as the ticket business can be handled by conductors on the trains and the carload business can be taken care of by the nearby adjacent agencies.

The revenues of the Railway Express Agency, Inc., during the twelve months' period ending July 31, 1932, for all express shipments forwarded and received at Chatsworth amounted to \$980.25. 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, due to the small amount of remuneration, no outside party is available to handle the agency should the Southern Pacific Company be permitted to withdraw.

Chatsworth is the terminal of the Burbank branch and is located on the main line of the Southern Pacific Company's Los Angeles Division. The nearest existing agencies to Chatsworth are Santa Susana, located a distance of 8.0 miles to the west, North Los Angeles, 4.4 miles east, and Canoga Park, 3.7 miles south.

In this proceeding Southern Pacific Company 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 of interested shippers and receivers of freight, indicated that there is no serious objection from the standpoint of railroad service and that applicant can provide reasonable service to its patrons at this point through the operation of a non-agency station.

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 that the company's telephone, located at said station, will be made available to patrons to communicate with adjacent agents for the purpose of ordering cars or obtaining other railroad information.

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 Chatsworth, located on Southern Pacific Company's main line, on its Los Angeles Division, in Los Angeles 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 in the company's warehouse and the railroad telephone shall be made available to its patrons. The key to both the warehouse and telephone shall be obtainable from a custodian located near or

at said station, notice of which shall be maintained at both the warehouse and telephone advising shippers where key can be secured.

- (4) Railway Express Agency, Inc., shall continue to handle express shipments moving into or out of said point, provided they are tendered to or received from 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 said agency by posting notice in a conspicuous place at said station.
- (6) 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.
- (7) The authorization herein granted shall lapse and become void if not exercised within one 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 10th day of December, 1932.

O. C. J. [unclear]

M. J. [unclear]

M. B. [unclear]

Fred G. [unclear]
Commissioners.