

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 2352

In the matter of the application of)
PACIFIC ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY for)
authority to abandon and remove cer-)
tain portions of its railroad tracks)
in that portion of the City of Los)
Angeles formerly known as the City)
of San Pedro, in the County of Los)
Angeles, State of California.)
.....)

Application No. 1596.

Frank Karr, for applicant.

A. Lonquist, for the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce.

GORDON, Commissioner,

O-P-I-N-I-O-N

The Pacific Electric Railway Company in this application proposes to abandon the following tracks in that part of the City of Los Angeles known as San Pedro; track on Beacon Street from Sixth Street to Thirteenth Street; track on Thirteenth Street from Beacon Street to Palos Verdes Street; track on Palos Verdes Street from Thirteenth Street to Crescent Avenue; track on Crescent Avenue from Beacon to Center Street; track on Front Street and Fifth Street to Fourth and Front Streets; track on Fourth Street from Front Street to Palos Verdes Street; narrow guage track on Fifth Street from Beacon Street to Front Street; narrow guage track on Front Street from Fifth Street to Fourth Street; track on Fourteenth Street and San Pedro Street, running from Beacon and Fourteenth Streets to end of the line on San Pedro; track on Fourteenth Street from Pacific Avenue to Gaffey Street. There was filed as Exhibit "C" copy of ordinance passed by the City Council of Los Angeles granting the City's permission to abandon these tracks.

A public hearing was held on this application in San Pedro on April 10, 1915. It appears that service over most of these lines consists in the operation of one or two cars per day to hold franchise rights and that in such cases as the regular operation

is maintained the cars have had but few passengers per day, and in one instance at least the track has already been removed at the request of the City of Los Angeles to permit grading and paving to be done on the streets which it had previously occupied. It developed that there was no opposition to the abandonment of these lines except for a short piece of track on Palos Verdes extending from Fourteenth Street to Crescent Avenue.

A representative of the Chamber of Commerce of San Pedro was present at the hearing, and on behalf of that body, expressed his belief that in the future there should be some direct mode of car connection between Outer Harbor, when constructed, and the southwest part of San Pedro. This piece of track, extended in the future, would serve this purpose, and the Pacific Electric expressed its willingness to maintain the track in question and keep on it sufficient car service to maintain the Company's franchise if that franchise has not been already forfeited.

It seems if the Pacific Electric is to operate this track in the future it will be necessary for it to have a connecting curve, on the south side, between the tracks on Fourteenth Street and Palos Verdes, and before such a curve can be constructed it will be necessary to obtain a franchise for it from the City of Los Angeles. The Pacific Electric Railway does not wish to maintain this track without the right to construct such a connecting curve when it becomes necessary and although it probably is not necessary at this time, I am of the opinion that the Company would be justified in objecting to maintaining a track of this character, for use in the future, unless it were clear that the City of Los Angeles would grant it permission to build the needed connection. I believe the Chamber of Commerce of San Pedro should take the necessary steps to assist the Pacific Electric to secure the franchise for this connecting curve.

All this property sought to be abandoned is security for bonds which have been issued by the Pacific Electric Company under

a general mortgage and that Company will be expected to take the necessary steps, if any are required, to see that the interests of the bond holders do not suffer when this proposed abandonment takes place.

I recommend the following form of order:-

O R D E R

PACIFIC ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY, a corporation, having applied to the Commission for permission to abandon certain tracks in that part of Los Angeles known as San Pedro, Los Angeles County, California, and a public hearing having been held, at which all interested parties were represented, and it appearing, with a certain exception, that it is proper that the application should be granted,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Pacific Electric Railway Company be and the same hereby is granted permission to abandon the tracks hereinbefore specifically mentioned, except that piece of track on Palos Verdes Street between Fourteenth and Fifteenth Streets, which shall be maintained and over which sufficient car service shall be operated to hold such franchise rights as the Pacific Electric Railway Company may now have in the premises. If after due effort the Pacific Electric Railway Company is unable to secure a franchise for a proper connecting curve between the track on Palos Verdes and Fourteenth Streets, it may apply to the Commission and the Commission will issue such further orders in the matter as may to it appear to be justifiable.

The Commission reserves the right to make such further orders relative to this application as to it may appear to be right and proper.

The foregoing opinion and order are hereby approved and ordered filed as the opinion and order of the Railroad Commission of the State of California.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 5th day of May, 1915.

Max Thelen

Alex Gordon

Edwin O. Edgerton

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Commissioners.