

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 7046.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

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In the Matter of the Application of
PICKWICK STAGES, NORTHERN DIVISION,
Inc., for certificate of public con-
venience and necessity to operate
passenger and express service between
Monterey and Salinas.)

) Application No. 4877.

H. C. Folsom for Applicant.

Hudson, Martin and Jorgenson by Carmel
Martin, for R. E. Gotham and Merle
Kramer, Protestants.

G. R. Carpenter, Protestant.

F. M. Littlefield, Protestant.

Harry T. Hennessey for United States
Railroad Administration, Southern
Pacific Railroad, Protestant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O R D E R

PICKWICK STAGES, NORTHERN DIVISION, INC., a corpor-
ation, has petitioned the Railroad Commission for an order de-
claring that public convenience and necessity requires the oper-
ation by it of an automobile stage line as a common carrier of
passengers and express between Monterey and Salinas.

A public hearing on this application was conducted
by Examiner Handford at Salinas, the matter was duly submitted
and is now ready for decision.

Applicant proposes to charge rates in accordance

with a schedule marked exhibit "A" and attached to the application in this proceeding and to operate on a schedule of three round trips daily between Monterey and Salinas; using as equipment one Packard touring car, nine passenger capacity, together with such other equipment as may be necessary in accordance with the demands of travel.

Applicant relies as justification for the granting of this certificate principally on the fact that the proposed line will be an adjunct to the through service now operated by applicant between Los Angeles, San Francisco and intermediate points; it being alleged that many patrons of the through line desire to stop over at Monterey and the granting of the desired certificate would make it possible for connections to be made with the through stages of applicant permitting the side trip, - Salinas to Monterey, to be made without any inconvenience or delay. Witnesses for applicant testified as to inquiries made at Salinas for stage service to Monterey and a record of such inquiries covering a period from October 1st to November 3rd, 1919, indicates that forty-one inquiries were received at the Salinas office of the Rickwick Stages. There was no evidence that applicants making inquiry did not succeed in securing transportation by either of the two present existing stage lines or by the railroad service of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

The granting of this application is protested by R. E. Gorham and Merle Kramer each operating a stage line between Salinas and Monterey over the route herein sought by applicant and by the United States Railroad Administration on behalf of its lessor, Southern Pacific Railroad, protestants Gorham and Kramer allege that the present service afforded by their respective lines is adequate for the needs of the public desiring stage transportation between Salinas and Monterey; that the

stages now carry but an average of but three to four passengers per trip and that more passengers could be carried on existing schedules in that vacant seats are available and that both protestants operating stage lines are willing to increase schedules or equipment if the volume of traffic should warrant such increase. City officials of Monterey testified that, in their opinion, the present stage service was adequate and that the rate charged was a reasonable one also that no complaints had been heard regarding any inadequacy of service or as to the unreasonableness of the existing stage rate.

The United States Railroad Administration offered evidence regarding tariffs and time schedules as in effect between Monterey and Salinas alleging that the present service afforded was adequate and at reasonable rates for all patrons desiring rail service between the points for which a certificate is sought by applicant herein.

Applicant has proposed a rate of seventy-five cents between Monterey and Salinas, the existing rate of the authorized stage operators over the same route being \$1.00, and the rate of the Southern Pacific Company being seventy cents. Applicant has offered a more desirable rate between the points proposed to be served than exists over the lines of the existing authorized stage company although such rate is slightly in excess of that offered by the Southern Pacific Railroad. There is no evidence, however, before the Commission in this proceeding which would indicate that the present facilities of the two existing authorized stage lines, together with the facilities offered by the Southern Pacific Railroad for such portion of the public as may desire rail transportation, are not adequate to satisfy fully the

H. C. M.

demands of traffic between Salinas and Monterey and the service rendered by the existing stage lines has evidently met with the approval of the public as evidenced by the testimony of city officials of Monterey, and a petition signed by one hundred and two patrons of the existing stage lines. There is no evidence before the Commission in this proceeding which would justify the granting of the desired application and the fact that the reduction in fare is proposed over that now charged by the existing stage lines can not be seriously considered as a reason for the granting of this application in view of the fact that there is ^{the} unconverted evidence that the present service and rates of the existing authorized stage lines are satisfactory to the patrons of the existing stage lines and, if the public desires to make the trip between Monterey and Salinas at the minimum expense, the facilities offered by the Southern Pacific Railroad are available at a lesser rate of fare than that contemplated by applicant herein.

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION HEREBY DECLARES that public convenience and necessity do not require the operation by Pickwick Stages, Northern Division, Inc., of an automobile stage line as a common carrier of passengers and express between Monterey and Salinas, and,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this application be and the same hereby is denied.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17th day of January, 1920.

Edwin G. Edgerly
H. D. Lovelace
Frank R. Brown
H. C. Mendenhall
Dwight Martin
Commissioners.