

Decision No. 7433

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application)
of the Red Star Stage Line for)
certificate of public convenience)
and necessity to operate passenger)
automobile service between Pigeon)
Point and Santa Cruz.)

APPLICATION NO. 4847.

Neil Forrest, President and Manager Red Star Stage Line,
for Applicant.
George W. Smith, for Peacadero Stage Line, Protestant.
Frank B. Austin, for Southern Pacific Company, Protestant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

ORDER

The Red Star Stage Line, by its President and General Manager, Neil Forrest, has petitioned the Railroad Commission for an order declaring that public convenience and necessity require the operation by him of automobile stages as a common carrier between Pigeon Point and Santa Cruz. A public hearing was held by Examiner Geary at San Francisco on April 7, 1920; the matter was duly submitted and is now ready for decision. There was attached to the application a schedule of the fares, also a time schedule showing the manner in which the stages would be operated.

At the present time, applicant operates a regular service between San Francisco and Pigeon Point by way of the Coast line through Salada Beach and Halfmoon Bay and the instant application contemplates a through service between San Francisco and Santa Cruz. In justification for the granting of the certificate, applicant relies principally upon the allegation that there is a need for

the service and that a substantial number of passengers would move between San Francisco and Santa Cruz if a through route were established. Originally, this applicant operated to Santa Cruz, but suspended service south of Pigeon Point several years ago. The only testimony for the company was that given by the General Manager, who, apparently, had not made a careful check of the territory.

The application was protested at the hearing by the Southern Pacific Company and by the Pescadero Stage Line and a protest in writing was received from the Auto Transit Company, operating between San Francisco and Santa Cruz by way of Los Gatos.

Witnesses on behalf of the Southern Pacific Company testified as to the fares and time schedules in effect between San Francisco and Santa Cruz and showed there is a frequent Passenger train service via the routes of that company.

The proprietor of the Pescadero Stage Line testified that there is very little local service between Santa Cruz and Pigeon Point-Pescadero, the average number being but six or eight per day. It was his opinion that a through line would not appeal to the traveling public, for the reason that the roads are now in bad shape, being of dirt construction, over which it is very difficult to operate, especially during the winter months. This company has the mail contract and is able to continue operation at this time only because of the revenue received from that source, the proprietor of the line being of the opinion that if a competing service were established his company could not continue the service. Other witnesses appeared on behalf of the Pescadero Stage Line and their testimony was all to the effect that two lines could not operate profitably between the points covered by this application. No showing was made of a desire on the part of the communities

between Pigeon Point and Santa Cruz for through service, but witnesses did appear who from their observation and experience were of the belief that a through line would not be a success and would result in injury to the established carrier.

It is suggested that these two operating companies endeavor to arrange their time schedules so that there will be direct connection of stages at Pescadero, and also agree upon a joint fare between Santa Cruz and San Francisco.

In view of the fact that the Railroad Commission, in Application No. 4973, Decision No. 6720, authorized the Pescadero Stage Line to operate between Santa Cruz and Pescadero, and a showing not having been made in this proceeding which would justify the establishment of a competing company, we are of the opinion that this application should be denied.

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION HEREBY DECLARES that public convenience and necessity do not require the establishment by the Red Star Stage Line of a passenger automobile service between Pigeon Point and Santa Cruz.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 15th day of April, 1920.

Edwin C. Edgerton

H. L. Lyland

Frank R. Miller

H. B. Mudge

Irving Martin
Commissioners.