

Decision No. 9536

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of  
H. A. WEBB for certificate of public  
convenience and necessity to operate  
freight, express and baggage service  
between Orcutt and Casmalia.

Application No. 6958.

ORIGINAL

H. A. Webb in propria persona.  
E. M. Sims for Pacific Coast Railway Co.  
K. B. Coleman for Santa Maria Valley  
Railroad.

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N

H. A. Webb applies for authority to operate a freight, express and baggage service between Orcutt and Casmalia, both in Santa Barbara County.

A public hearing upon the application was held by Examiner Westover at Santa Maria.

Applicant proposes to operate a one ton Ford truck, one round trip daily except Sundays, the rates ranging from 25 cents to \$1.00 per hundred, being 25 cents "on such articles as" flour, sugar, grain, hardware and canned goods, 50 cents on household goods and furniture, and \$1.00 on pianos, farm machinery and automobiles.

What mental classification applicant might make to determine what articles are "such as" the above cannot be known.

It appears from applicant's unsupported testimony that he is not familiar with the present rail service or rates, and could not show in what way, if at all, his proposed service would be an improvement upon the present rail service, and there is no testimony

showing a public demand for the service. It appears that Orcutt has a population of about 400, with two general merchandise stores, two oil well supply houses, a meat market, boiler works, garage, and gasoline compressor. It appears from applicant's testimony that some of the business interests would continue to operate their own trucks.

The rail route between Casmalia and Orcutt is at present through San Luis Obispo, a distance of about 70 miles as against a direct distance by road of about 8 miles, but it does not appear that the train schedules and applicant's proposed schedules are such as to make a material saving in time or rates, or that there is a public need for the service. Some time ago, the Pacific Coast Railway Company, operating between San Luis Obispo and Los Olivos via Santa Maria and Orcutt, arranged, at the request of business men at those towns, to transport freight on its early morning passenger train, and the manager of the road testified that there had been no complaint of the present service nor request for further or different service. If this were needed, it appears likely that saving in time on some shipments could be made by a more prompt transfer of l.c.l. freight from the Southern Pacific across the platform at San Luis Obispo. It is also possible that an improvement might be made by handling shipments through Guadalupe rather than San Luis Obispo, although there was no testimony on this point presented at the hearing.

#### ORDER

A public hearing having been held upon the above entitled application, the matter being submitted and now ready for decision,

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION HEREBY DECLARES that public convenience and necessity do not require the operation by H. A. Webb of a freight, express or baggage service between Orcutt and Casmalia.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 1921.

A. D. Loveland

James M. Weston

Charles H. Rowell

Commissioners.