

Decision No 9858

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application of
RALPH R. PAUL for certificate of
public convenience and necessity to
operate passenger and express service
between MADERA, Madera County, California
and FRIANT, Fresno County, California.

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Application No. 7392
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BY THE COMMISSION,

ORDER

In this proceeding Ralph R. Paul has applied to the Railroad Commission for a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing him to operate an automobile stage line as a common carrier of passengers and express between Madera, Madera County, California and the dam site and Friant in Fresno County, California, and intermediate points.

In the petition applicant gives as justification for the granting of the certificate of public convenience and necessity as herein applied for, the fact that the Madera Irrigation District will commence the construction of a large dam one mile north of Friant, that said construction involves the erection of a dam, reservoir, power plant, excavating canals, etc. at a cost of approximately \$16,000,000.00 and that during such construction work a considerable number of men will be employed thereon.

The present application is similar in every respect to Application No. 7124 which was decided by the Railroad Commission on November 23rd, 1921, Decision No. 9793. In the above numbered decision the Commission said:

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"It appears that the occasion for filing the application is the proposed construction of a large irrigation system by Madera Irrigation District, with a dam to be located approximately 3400 feet beyond the Southern Pacific Friant terminal. The exact location of the dam has not been determined, owing to the pendency of litigation in the Superior Court, involving the condemnation of certain water rights. Estimates by witnesses as to the time when work upon the dam will begin vary from 'next Spring' to July, 1922. There was testimony to the effect that the district officers have stated that unless the camp for the workers is completed by March 31st it will be necessary to delay the work nine months. It also appears that no decision has yet been reached as to whether the work will be done by the district or done under contract, and it further appears that a determination upon this point may affect the route of travel to be used by the labor which will build the dam and canals. The testimony of one of the Fresno employment agents with ten years' experience is to the effect that the labor required, which is estimated as between 500 and 2000 men, will probably have to be procured principally at bay points, Los Angeles and Sacramento; that contracts of employment are made at points where the labor is found, travelling expenses advanced and the men routed by the employers or agencies; that usually rail transportation is considered preferable, as the men receive better protection from the weather, arrive in better condition and have ample accommodation for their blankets and baggage. However, the headquarters of the district is located at Friant and the application is based upon the theory that men would have to come to Friant to secure employment. The testimony of the agent referred to is to the effect that usually only about 5% of the labor comes directly to the job, the other 95% being procured and contracted for in the labor centers."

For the reasons stated above it would appear that a public hearing is unnecessary in the present proceeding and that the application should be dismissed.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above entitled application be, and the same hereby is dismissed.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 10th day of December, 1921.

H. A. Judice
H. S. ...

J. F. ...
Commissioners