

Decision No. 25910.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
(a) SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY for an
Order authorizing it to close its
agency at Westhaven Station, County
of Fresno, State of California, and
(b) RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY, INC.
authorizing it to abandon its agency
at said Station.

Application No. 18793.

ORIGINAL

BY THE COMMISSION:

ORDER

This is a joint application filed by Southern Pacific Company and Railway Express Agency, Inc., seeking authority to close their joint agency station at Westhaven, Fresno County. Accompanying the application is a comparative statement showing the amount of business transacted at said station during the two years ended February 28, 1933. A summary of this statement follows:

<u>Items</u>	<u>Year Ended Feb. 28th</u>	
	<u>1932</u>	<u>1933</u>
Passenger tickets sold	0	0
Number less-than-carload shipments received	281	147
Number less-than-carload shipments forwarded	33	11
Number carloads received	3	2
Number carloads forwarded	117	234

Westhaven is unincorporated, serves a grain and cattle territory, and is located on the Coalinga Branch of Southern Pacific Company's San Joaquin Division. The present normal train service on this branch line consists of a local freight operated in each direction triweekly between Armona and Coalinga, there being no passenger service performed over this branch.

The nearest existing agency stations to Westhaven are Coalinga to the west, a distance of 22.3 miles, and Lemoore to the east, a distance of 12.2 miles.

The revenue to Railway Express Agency, Inc. during the twelve-month period March 1, 1932 to February 28, 1933, for all express shipments forwarded and received at Westhaven amounted to \$89.64. In the past, Southern Pacific Company's agent acted as express agent at this point on a commission basis. Railway Express Agency, Inc. alleges that in view of the small amount of remuneration no outside party is available to handle its business in case Southern Pacific Company should withdraw its agent.

Boston Land Company of Westhaven, whose shipments represent 98 per cent of the freight business conducted at this point, and California Farm Bureau Federation have signified, in writing, that they do not object to the granting of this application.

Applicant Southern Pacific Company proposes, if this application is granted, to store less-than-carload shipments in its warehouse under lock, provided a suitable arrangement can be made to secure the services of a custodian of the key. Likewise, the company's telephone will be made available to patrons to communicate with agents at adjacent stations for the purpose of ordering cars or for other railroad business.

It appears that a public hearing is not necessary herein and that this application should be granted, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Southern Pacific Company and Railway Express Agency, Inc., respectively, are hereby authorized to close their joint agency at Westhaven, located on the Coalinga Branch of Southern Pacific Company's San Joaquin Division in Fresno County, California, and to change their respective records and tariffs accordingly, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Said joint agency is to be continued as a non-agency station.

- (2) Applicants shall give the public at least ten (10) days' notice prior to the abandonment of said agency by posting notice in a conspicuous place at said station.
- (3) Applicants shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, notify the Commission, in writing, of the abandonment herein authorized and of their compliance with the conditions hereof.
- (4) The authorization herein granted shall lapse and become void if not exercised within one (1) year from the date hereof, unless further time is granted by subsequent Order.

The authority herein granted shall become effective on the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 10th day of May, 1933.

C. C. Deane
Leon White
M. A. Lee
M. B. Harris
W. H. ...
Commissioners!