

Decision No. 26085 .

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 the
agency at Metz, County of Monterey,
State of California, and (b) RAILWAY
EXPRESS AGENCY, INC. for an order
authorizing it to abandon its agency
at said station.

Application No. 18471.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O R D E R

This is a joint application filed by Southern Pacific Company and Railway Express Agency, Inc., seeking authority to close their joint agency station at Metz, Monterey County.

Accompanying the application is a comparative statement showing the amount of business transacted at said station during the two years ending July 31st, 1932, and a summary of this statement is as follows:

Items	Year Ending July 31st	
	1931	1932
Passenger tickets sold,	112	65
Number of less-than-carload shipments received,	145	126
Number of less-than-carload shipments forwarded,	71	45
Number of carload shipments received,	16	17
Number of carload shipments forwarded,	43	41

Most of the carload business consists of stock shipments.

Metz is unincorporated and is the trading center for a large area devoted to stock raising and is located on the Southern Pacific Company's main line of its Coast Division. The present normal train service consists of one passenger train in each direction daily and a local freight Monday, Wednesday and

Friday northbound and Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday southbound.

The nearest existing agency station to Metz is King City, located a distance of 11.4 miles to the south, and Soledad, located 8.7 miles to the north.

A study of Southern Pacific Company's station records shows that during the twelve-month period May 1st, 1932, to April 30th, 1933, \$93.00 passenger, \$164.00 milk and cream, \$178.00 less-than-carload and \$6,562.00 carload business was transacted at this station. The station expense for this period amounted to \$1,554.00, or \$1,119.00 more than the amount of revenue derived from the sale of passenger tickets, milk and cream, and less-than-carload shipments.

The Railway Express Agency, Inc., alleges that the revenue derived for all express shipments forwarded and received at Metz during the twelve-month period May 1st, 1931, to April 30th, 1932, amounted to \$78.56. In the past the Southern Pacific Company's agent acted as express agent at this point on a commission basis. In view of the small amount of remuneration, no outside party is available to handle its business in case the Southern Pacific Company should withdraw its agent.

The California Cattlemen's Association, whose shipments represent 98% of the freight business conducted at this point, and the California Farm Bureau Federation signified, in writing, that they do not object to the granting of this application.

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

It appearing that a public hearing is not necessary herein and that the application should be granted,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Southern Pacific Company and Railway Express Agency, Inc., respectively, are authorized to close their joint agency at Metz, located on the main line of the Southern Pacific Company's Coast Division, in Monterey County, California, and to change their respective records and tariffs accordingly, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Said 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 a notice in a conspicuous place in said station.
- (3) Railway Express Agency, Inc., shall continue to handle express shipments moving into or out of said point, providing they are delivered to or received from express messenger at car door of train stopping at said point.
- (4) Applicants shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, notify the public of the abandonment herein authorized and of their compliance with the conditions hereof.
- (5) 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.
- (6) The Commission reserves the right to make such further orders in this matter as to it may seem right and proper and to revoke its permission if, in its judgment, public convenience and necessity demand such action.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 19th day of June, 1933.

C. L. Lewis
Leon A. White
W. A. Cunniff
W. B. Hagan
Arthur H. ...
Commissioners.