

Decision No. 30503.

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of )  
PACIFIC ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY )  
for authority to abandon its La )  
Rambla Line at San Pedro in the )  
County of Los Angeles, California. )

Application No. 21560.

C. W. Cornell, for Applicant.  
S. M. Lanham, for the Board of Public Utilities  
and Transportation, City of Los Angeles,  
Interested Party.  
George D. Porter, Interested Party.  
J. Ross Wallace, Interested Party.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

The above numbered application was filed by Pacific Electric Railway Company and seeks authority to abandon its La Rambla line at San Pedro, Los Angeles County.

A hearing on this matter was conducted by Examiner Hunter at Los Angeles on Tuesday, December 14th, 1937, at which time it was submitted and is now ready for decision.

The line proposed to be abandoned is approximately 1.4 miles in length and the record shows that local service has been provided for many years. Due to the competition of the private automobile, as well as that of a local motor coach operator, who provides transportation service in approximately the same area, this rail service for the past several years has been consistently operated at an out-of-pocket loss.

Exhibit No. 1 shows a statement of operating results on the line for the period of January to August, inclusive, 1937,

with an estimate for the same months of 1938. This exhibit shows that for the 1937 period a net out-of-pocket loss of \$1,502 was incurred, with an anticipated net loss of \$2,211 for the same period during 1938, if operation is continued. This difference is largely attributable to the recent wage increase granted trainmen following conferences between the company, the employees and the President's Emergency Board.

The line under consideration is the only remaining Pacific Electric local service in the area, the Point Firmin line, which operated locally in the San Pedro District, having been abandoned in 1934, pursuant to this Commission's Decision No. 27363, dated September 17th, 1934, on Application No. 19527.

There is no freight or express service operated on the local line involved herein and applicant proposes to remove the overhead construction and also its tracks, which are located on private right of way. It is planned that the girder rail, in place on Harbor Boulevard, Sixth Street, Pacific Avenue and Fifth Street, will remain until such time as these streets are repaved or the rail is required for use elsewhere.

Exhibit "C," attached to the application, shows that from 5:50 A.M. until 1:24 A.M. the following morning, approximate 30-minute headways have been provided, with a fare of five cents.

An association, known as the San Pedro Motor Bus Association, conducts a general motor coach service in the San Pedro district. These operations are entirely within the city limits of the City of Los Angeles and therefore are conducted under permits issued by the Board of Public Utilities and Transportation. One of the members of this association has applied to the Commission for a certificate to operate a bus line (Application No. 21574, filed by John La Pinta), a portion of the route of which is along

the same streets as the rail line herein sought to be abandoned.

Exhibit No. 4 is a petition asking that the Commission deny Pacific Electric Railway Company's application unless a 34-foot strip of private right of way in the center of La Alameda, between Cabrillo and Bandini Streets, is deeded to the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles for street purposes. The petition sets forth that, with this right of way in the center of La Alameda, a strip only thirteen feet in width is available between the right of way and the property lines for use by the residents in the area. The question of the disposition of this private right of way which, in part at least, is held by the applicant in fee title, is not a matter for the Commission to determine and has no bearing upon the question of public convenience and necessity for the continued operation on this line.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, as indicated by Exhibit No. 2, has adopted an order approving the abandonment of this line as proposed. Exhibit No. 3 indicates that the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles has taken similar action. No opposition, other than that referred to above, developed to the granting of this application.

A careful consideration of the record at this hearing leads to the conclusion that this application should be granted and the following Order will so provide.

#### O R D E R

Public hearing having been held and the Commission being fully advised;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Pacific Electric Railway Company is hereby authorized to abandon its rail operations on its so-called La Rambla line at San Pedro, in the County of Los Angeles; to cancel, in conformity with the rules of this Commission, all passenger rate tariffs and time schedules pertaining thereto; and to remove its overhead construction and that portion

of its tracks lying in private right of way. A description of the line to be abandoned is as follows:

From a point on Harbor Boulevard just south of Fourth Street, in San Pedro, thence south on Harbor Boulevard to Sixth Street, west on Sixth Street to Pacific Avenue, north on Pacific Avenue to Fifth Street, west on Fifth Street to a point just west of Cabrillo Street, thence northwest on private right of way to Bandini Street, thence north on Bandini Street to Santa Cruz Street.

This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Service on this line shall not be discontinued until service shall have been commenced on the motor coach line proposed to be established by John La Pinta in Application No. 21574, which is now pending before the Commission.
- (2) The public shall be afforded at least ten (10) days' notice prior to the abandonment, by posting notices in all cars operating on the line.
- (3) Applicant shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, notify this Commission, in writing, of the abandonment of the passenger service and facilities herein authorized and of its compliance with the conditions of this Order.
- (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 effective date of this Order shall be the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1938.

Walter M. ...  
John A. ...  
Arthur B. ...  
James ...  
W. L. ...  
Commissioners.