

Decision No. 32576

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
UNION ICE AND STORAGE COMPANY, a corpor-
ation, for and on behalf of itself or
THE UNION ICE COMPANY, a corporation, for
an order granting an extension of a Cer-
tificate of Public Convenience and
Necessity to engage in the cold storage
warehouse business at Los Angeles Harbor
for the freezing and cold storing of
Fish and Sea Food Products.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 22974

L. A. Bailey, for Applicant.

CRAEMER, COMMISSIONER:

O P I N I O N

Applicants in the above entitled matter seek a certificate from this Commission declaring that public convenience and necessity require an extension of the facilities now operated by Union Ice and Storage Company at Los Angeles Harbor for the freezing and cold storage of fish and sea food products.¹

A public hearing was had at Los Angeles on November 2, 1939.

¹ By Decision No. 22649 of July 9, 1930, in Application No. 16639, The Union Ice Company was granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity to conduct a public cold storage warehouse at Wilmington for the freezing and storage of fish and sea food products. By Decision No. 23075 of November 13, 1930, in Application No. 16992 (35 C.R.C. 410), The Union Ice Company was authorized to lease to Union Ice and Storage Company all public utility cold storage warehouse properties owned or operated by the former company, and to assign to Union Ice and Storage Company, during the pendency of the lease and any extension thereof, the certificate of public convenience and necessity granted by said Decision No. 22649.

The Union Ice Company is engaged in the manufacture and sale of ice at various points in the State of California; Union Ice and Storage Company, a wholly owned affiliate, operates public utility cold storage warehouses on properties leased from the parent company. The present warehouse at Los Angeles Harbor is located at 663 South Fries Avenue, Wilmington. The additional facilities here sought would be located on property now owned by and to be leased from The Union Ice Company at 18th and Mesa Streets, San Pedro. The present and proposed facilities are situated within the corporate limits of the City of Los Angeles.

The Assistant General Manager of the two applicant corporations testified that the demand for space for cold storage of fish is subject to considerable seasonal variation, and that at times of peak demand the present facilities at Los Angeles Harbor are inadequate. He stated that this situation results in inconvenience and financial loss to customers who cannot be accommodated, as fresh fish is an extremely perishable commodity which, if not promptly frozen and placed in cold storage, is subject to rapid deterioration. He said that his companies feel obligated to increase their freezing and storage capacity to meet the public demand.

This witness estimated that if the necessary enlargement were made at the present Wilmington location the cost would be about \$25,000, whereas comparable facilities could be provided by remodeling a portion of the San Pedro plant of The Union Ice Company at an expense of only \$3,000. The space proposed to be occupied covers a floor area of about 1250 square feet now used by The Union Ice Company for temporary storage of its own surplus ice. The witness said that in his opinion

the public would be better served by providing storage space at San Pedro as here proposed rather than by making the more costly enlargement to the Wilmington plant.

Several witnesses representing companies engaged in the business of buying and selling fresh fish and other sea food products testified in support of the granting of the application. These witnesses explained that at times of peak storage demand the Wilmington warehouse of Union Ice and Storage Company has been filled to capacity, as a result of which they have upon several occasions been refused storage space. They stated that to their knowledge there are no other public cold storage facilities at either Wilmington or San Pedro, and it has therefore been necessary upon such occasions to send the fish to warehouses located some twenty miles distance in the City of Los Angeles. This method of storage has involved inconveniences, added transportation expense, and the risk of serious deterioration of the commodity. All of these witnesses expressed the conviction that the proposed warehouse addition would serve public convenience and would meet a public need, and all of them stated a preference for the San Pedro addition as here contemplated, rather than for enlargement of the Wilmington facility. They explained that practically all of the fish not intended for canning is now landed at San Pedro rather than Wilmington, that the proposed new location would be about five miles closer to the San Pedro landing docks than is the present Wilmington plant, and that most of the fish dealers have their business headquarters at San Pedro. The San Pedro location would therefore be particularly convenient, as it would reduce the expense and

deterioration of product involved in the transportation to and from storage, and would place the storage facilities close to the business offices of the San Pedro dealers.

The application is supported by the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce. It is not opposed by anyone although public cold storage warehouses operating in Southern California were notified of the filing thereof.

The record in this proceeding affords ample proof that public convenience and necessity would be served by the proposed service, and the application should be granted. I recommend the following form of order.

O R D E R

A public hearing having been held in the above entitled proceeding and the matter having been duly submitted,

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA hereby declares that public convenience and necessity require that applicants extend their public cold storage warehousing facilities at Los Angeles Harbor by providing at the San Pedro plant of The Union Ice Company, situated at 18th and Mesa Streets, San Pedro, approximately 1250 square feet of floor area for the freezing and cold storage of fish and sea food products, and

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the certificate of public convenience and necessity heretofore granted to The Union Ice Company and now assigned to Union Ice and Storage Company be and it is hereby amended and enlarged in accordance with the declaration contained in the paragraph immediately preceding, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to enlarging its operations as herein authorized, applicant Union Ice and Storage Company shall file a supplement or amendment to its tariff, published in accordance with the rules of this Commission, showing the proposed extension of service.

2. The rights and privileges herein authorized may not be discontinued, sold, leased, transferred nor assigned without the written consent of the Commission to such discontinuance, sale, lease, transfer or assignment.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty (20) days from the date hereof.

The foregoing opinion and order are hereby approved and ordered filed as the opinion and order of the Railroad Commission of the State of California.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 21st day of November 1939.

Robert W. Brown
Frank W. Brown
Ray L. Carey

Justus J. Creever
Commissioners