

Decision No. 52780

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of SOUTHERN PACIFIC) Application
COMPANY to abandon its freight station of Mayfield,) No. 23219
Santa Clara County, California, and to move its Palo)
Alto freight station to a new location at or near)
the present location of Mayfield Station.)

R. S. MYERS, for Applicant
LORENZ COSTELLO, Mayor, and ARNOLD RUMWELL, City Attorney,
for the City of Palo Alto.
GEORGE K. WHITWORTH, W. M. BARTON, and DR. J. G. SHARP, for
Palo Alto Residents Club.
R. W. STENBIT, for Mayfield Service Club.
MARVIN VANDERVOORT, for Merchants on University Avenue.
J. F. DONOVAN, for Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce.
L. H. ANDERSON, City Engineer's Office, Palo Alto.
H. H. STRAIN, for Property Owners in South Palo Alto.

BAKER, COMMISSIONER:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding Southern Pacific Company requests permission to abandon its freight station of Mayfield, Santa Clara County, and to remove its Palo Alto Station to a location in the vicinity of the present site of Mayfield Station, City of Palo Alto.

Public hearings were held in the matter on January 18th and February 5th, 1940, at which latter hearing the matter was submitted.

At the present time applicant maintains freight stations at two points in the City of Palo Alto; one being located in the vicinity of the intersection of Hamilton Avenue and Alma Street, about one block south of the Palo Alto passenger station, and the other being located at the intersection of California Street and Southern Pacific Company's tracks at what is known as Mayfield Station, but within the incorporated limits of the City of Palo Alto.

Applicant desires to move its Palo Alto freight station because at its present location it would interfere with the track changes and subway now under construction at University Avenue, all as shown on Exhibit No. 4 filed in this proceeding.

In order to construct this subway, which was authorized by Decision No. 32182, in Application No. 22382, it will be necessary to move the main line tracks of Southern Pacific Company about 80 feet westerly and raise the grade of the tracks approximately 5 feet for a considerable distance on each side of University Avenue. After this project has been completed there will not be sufficient room on the railroad's property to accommodate a freight station in the vicinity of its present location. Furthermore, there is no room available for the freight station between California Street and the northern limits of the city. The record indicates that the only railroad property available for the Palo Alto freight station is in the vicinity of the Mayfield station.

It is proposed to locate the freight station and facilities in the vicinity of Grant and Alma Streets, approximately one block south of the present Mayfield freight station. On account of the larger facilities required, the existing Mayfield freight station is inadequate.

By establishing the Palo Alto freight station at the point proposed, the continued operation of the Mayfield freight station would no longer be necessary, as the one station could readily handle all of the business.

The representative of the City of Palo Alto stated that the City is in entire agreement with the plan proposed for the moving of the Palo Alto freight station, and also that it was desirous that it should be moved at as early a date as possible so that the construction work on the University Avenue subway would not be delayed.

A request was made at the hearing on January 18th for a continuance so that the residents in that vicinity could present adequate testimony. This request was granted and a further hearing was held on February 5th.

Two major protests were received against the granting of the application. The Merchants of University Avenue, through their representative, desired that the Palo Alto freight station be relocated in its present general position. It was their contention that if the freight station is moved to Mayfield, it will cause a longer haul for the movement of freight to and from their places of business. The Palo Alto Residents Club and individual residents in the vicinity of Mayfield Station protested the location of the station at Grant Street, it being their contention that it would preclude the building of a grade separation at Grant Street in the future. However, there has been no definite plan for a grade separation in that general location other than proposed by these residents, and it appears that it will be many years before a grade separation could be built in that general location.

The record is clear that it is necessary to move the Palo Alto freight station from its present location in order to provide for the construction of the University Avenue subway, and that the most available location for such a freight station is the one prayed for in the application. The record also shows that when this station has been relocated and placed in operation there will be no further necessity for maintaining the Mayfield freight station. Therefore the application should be granted, and the following form of Order is recommended.

O R D E R

Public hearings having been held and the matter being under submission,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Southern Pacific Company is hereby authorized:

I. To move its Palo Alto freight station to the location at or near the present Mayfield Station, substantially at the location

shown on Drawing No. CE-15735, sheet 3, attached to and made a part of the application, and

II. To abandon its freight station at Mayfield (City of Palo Alto), Santa Clara County, concurrently with and not before the establishment of the Palo Alto freight station as hereinbefore authorized.

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 foregoing Opinion and Order are hereby approved and ordered filed as the Opinion and Order of the Railroad Commission of the State of California.

The authority herein granted shall become effective ten (10) days from the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 6th day of February, 1940.

W. L. Riley
Frank Devereux
W. L. Riley
Walter D. Coe
Commissioners