

Decision No. 33589

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
PACIFIC GREYHOUND LINES for instal-
lation of "Exemption Signs" at spur
railroad tracks where motor vehicles
carrying passengers for hire need not
stop in accordance with Section No.
576(d) of the California Vehicle Code,
and G.O. No. 89 of the Railroad Com-
mission of the State of California,
in the vicinity of Gigling.

Application No. 23675

H. C. LUCAS and H. D. RICHARDS, for Applicant.

ORIGINAL

R. S. MYERS, for Southern Pacific Company, Protestant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

Pacific Greyhound Lines filed the above-entitled applica-
tion requesting permission to install exempt signs thereby relieving
its passenger carrying buses from making the stop required in Sec-
tion 576(d) of the California Vehicle Code at two crossings of the
highway over spur tracks of Southern Pacific Company in the vicinity
of Gigling, Monterey County.

A public hearing was held on the application before Examiner
Hall on October 28, 1940, in San Francisco.

The two crossings which are the subject of this application
have been recently constructed across the State highway leading from
Castroville to Monterey and are for the purpose of providing railroad
service to a military cantonment, known as Camp Clayton, now under
construction for the U. S. Army. One of these crossings was author-
ized by the Commission in Decision No. 33446 (Application No. 23597)
and the other in Decision No. 33379 (Application No. 23572). The ap-
plication of applicant as filed refers only to the crossing author-
ized in Decision No. 33446 but at the hearing applicant amended its
petition to include both crossings.

In authorizing these spur track crossings the Commission required that both crossings be protected by Standard No. 8 flashing light signals, which installation has been made. At the time the original authority was granted a two-lane highway, approximately twenty-four feet in width, existed at this location. Subsequent thereto the County of Monterey has commenced construction of a parallel roadway providing two additional lanes and when completed south-bound vehicular traffic passing in front of the military reservation and across these spur tracks will use the old State highway and north-bound travel will be accommodated by the new road.

Both vehicular and rail traffic are fairly heavy at the respective points of the crossing. The construction of the camp has caused a heavy increase in the number of vehicles having occasion to use this highway and the moving in of material by rail has resulted in a large volume of switching movements over the crossings. A check made on October 23rd shows that on that date between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. there were twenty-five bus movements and twenty-three train movements over one of the crossings, and twenty-three bus and two train movements at the other crossing. Construction activities at the camp often require the handling of one hundred or more cars a day in and out of the reservation and the railroad company at the present time has three switch engine crews working daily moving these materials to the camp from Watsonville Junction. and switching the spurs within the reservation. The movements at times require long cuts of cars passing over the crossings with the State highway.

While the Commission is desirous of relieving passenger carrying buses from the necessity of making stops at spur track crossings where conditions permit it is felt in this case an undue hazard would be created if such exemptions were granted, particularly

during the period of construction of the camp. It may be that when the buildings are completed the volume and nature of rail traffic over the crossings will change to such an extent that exemptions can at that time be granted, but, in the meantime, such exemptions should not be granted and the following order will so provide.

O R D E R

Pacific Greyhound Lines having made application for installation of exemption signs at two spur track crossings serving Camp Clayton in the vicinity of Gigling, Monterey County, a public hearing having been held, the matter being under submission and ready for determination,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Application No. 23675 is hereby denied without prejudice.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 19th day of November, 1940.

By: J. C. Riley
John H. Miller
Walter Schubert
M. H. H. H.
Justin F. Coe
Commissioners