

Decision No. 34309

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)	
WILLIAM WILLIFORD for certificate of)	
public convenience and necessity to)	Application No. 24129
operate passenger and express service))	
between Santa Maria, Betteravia and)	
Guadalupe.)	

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

Willaim Williford, an individual, doing business under the name of Bill's Taxi, seeks by this application to establish and operate a passenger stage service between Santa Maria and Guadalupe and intermediate points. (1)

The applicant alleges that the Southern Pacific Company operates a rail passenger service via Guadalupe and persons traveling between Guadalupe and Santa Maria or Betteravia have no means of transportation other than by a taxi service which the applicant now operates over this route, or by private automobile. The applicant's taxi fare between Guadalupe and Santa Maria at present is \$1.85 one way for the distance of 9 miles. It is further asserted that workers from Santa Maria and Betteravia

(1) Guadalupe is a point on the Southern Pacific Company about 30 miles south of San Luis Obispo. Santa Maria is a point on Highway No. 166, 9 miles east of Guadalupe. An intermediate point, Betteravia, also proposed to be served, is located off the main highway between Santa Maria and Guadalupe and is 6 miles from Guadalupe and 7 miles from Santa Maria.

engaged in the vegetable industry around Guadalupe have no public transportation available to them other than applicant's taxi service which is too expensive, being based upon a single passenger fare. The Union Sugar Company operates a large sugar factory at Betteravia. Many hundreds of employees work there during the operating season and have no public passenger transportation available to them in traveling from and to the factory.

Applicant proposes to operate three 5-passenger automobile sedans which he owns and uses in a local taxi service in and around Santa Maria. (2)

Attached to the application as Exhibit "B" is a proposed time schedule which offers two services a day in each direction between Santa Maria and Guadalupe via Betteravia to connect with the Southern Pacific trains at Guadalupe. The distance via this route is 13 miles. In addition, two more services per day are proposed to operate in each direction directly between Santa Maria and Guadalupe. The distance via this route is 9 miles. Service would be rendered daily, including Sundays and holidays.

The fares sought to be charged by the applicant are as follows:

<u>Between</u>	<u>And</u>	<u>One-Way Fare</u>
Santa Maria	Guadalupe	65¢ per person
Santa Maria	Betteravia	50¢ " "
Betteravia	Guadalupe	40¢ " "

(2) The equipment is described in the application as follows: One 1941 Dodge sedan valued at \$1200; one 1940 Buick sedan valued at \$1400; one 1937 Buick sedan valued at \$600. The applicant also has a working capital of approximately \$1000.

The above fares include the carriage of baggage free up to 60 pounds.

Applicant proposes to drive one car himself and hire one of his regular taxi drivers to drive the other. The third car would be used as "stand-by" equipment. Applicant estimates that he will transport approximately 480 persons per month and earn gross revenue of about \$300. His operating expenses are estimated at \$230 a month, of which \$30 per month is allocated to rent, \$70 to labor and \$130 to operating expenses for gasoline, oil, repairs, overhead and depreciation. Suitable terminal facilities for picking up and discharging passengers have been arranged for at the Bradley Hotel in Santa Maria, at the store of the Union Sugar Company in Betteravia and at the Campodonico Hotel, as well as the Southern Pacific depot in Guadalupe.

Applicant alleges that for the past year he has conducted a taxicab business in Santa Maria. For the past twelve years he has operated an auto laundry in Santa Maria and prior to that time he worked as a stage driver in the State of New York for about two and one-half years.

The Santa Maria Valley Railroad operates between Guadalupe and Santa Maria for the transportation of freight only. There is no for-hire common carrier passenger service operating between the points here involved at the present time. No protest has been received to the granting of this application and it does not appear that this is a matter in which a public hearing is necessary.

The present one-way taxi fare between Santa Maria and Guadalupe is \$1.85 per person. The proposed fare would be 65

cents. The estimated volume of traffic to be handled and the revenue that would accrue therefrom, based upon applicant's personal knowledge of existing traffic conditions, appears to be reasonable.

It appears that applicant possesses sufficient operating experience and financial ability to undertake the establishment of the proposed service. Although the proposed service contemplates the use of five-passenger automobile sedans it is alleged that three passengers would be carried on the average trip. The applicant proposes to meet both the northbound and southbound trains of the Southern Pacific Company at Guadalupe and his proposed time schedule is designed to fit in with the rail service.

From the facts set forth in the application it appears that the proposed operation is necessary and required in the public interest. The Commission is of the opinion and finds that public convenience and necessity require the operation by applicant of a passenger stage service for the transportation of persons and their baggage between Santa Maria, Guadalupe and Betteravia and the application will be granted.

O R D E R

Upon a consideration of the above-entitled application and based upon the Commission's finding of fact that public convenience and necessity so require,

IT IS ORDERED that a certificate of public convenience and necessity be and it hereby is granted to William Williford, an individual, doing business as Bill's Taxi, to establish and maintain an automotive service as a passenger stage corporation,

as that term is defined in section 24 of the Public Utilities Act, for the transportation of persons and their baggage (when such baggage is transported incidental to the transportation of passengers) between Santa Maria, Betteravia and Guadalupe and intermediate points.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in the operation of the passenger stage service herein authorized, William Williford, an individual, doing business as Bill's Taxi, shall observe the following service regulations:

1. Subject to the Commission's authority to change said routes by further order at any future time, the operation of the service herein authorized shall be conducted over the following routes:
 - a. Between Guadalupe and Santa Maria, via California State Highway No. 166.
 - b. Between Guadalupe and Santa Maria, via Betteravia, via State Highway No. 166 and county roads.
2. File in triplicate within thirty (30) days from the effective date hereof and on not less than fifteen (15) days' notice to the Commission and the public, an appropriate tariff and time schedule published in accordance with the rates and service authorized herein and in a manner satisfactory to the Commission.
3. File a written acceptance of the certificate herein granted within fifteen (15) days from the date hereof and commence the service herein authorized within a period of not to exceed thirty (30) days from the effective date of this order.
4. The rights and privileges herein authorized may not be discontinued, sold, leased, transferred nor assigned unless the written consent of the Railroad Commission has first been obtained.
5. No vehicle may be operated by applicant unless such vehicle is owned by applicant or is leased by him under a contract or agreement on a basis satisfactory to the Railroad Commission.

6. Applicant shall comply with all the provisions of General Order No. 93-A of the Railroad Commission.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17th day of June, 1941.

COMMISSIONERS