

Decision No. 35042.

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)	
WILMINGTON TRANSPORTATION COMPANY,)	
a corporation, for an order author-)	
izing the resumption of certain)	Application No. 24757.
service for the transportation of)	
passengers by vessel between Wilming-)	
ton and Avalon at increased fares.)	

BY THE COMMISSION:

O R D E R

The Wilmington Transportation Company filed the above entitled application, seeking an order of this Commission authorizing the resumption of certain service for the transportation of passengers by vessel between Wilmington and Avalon and for authority to increase its one-way and round trip fares, as well as its special party fares.

Applicant, since 1884, has been engaged in the operation of vessels for the transportation of persons and freight between Wilmington, Port of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, and Port of Avalon, Santa Catalina Island, Los Angeles County. By Decision No. 30478, dated January 3, 1938, applicant was authorized to establish the following fares:

- One-way fare \$2.00
- Round trip fare \$3.50
- Special parties (30 to 99 adults),
Round trip fare. \$3.00
- Special parties (100 or more adults),
Round trip fare. \$2.50

Said fares were placed in effect February 1, 1938, and have remained in effect subsequent to that date.

On December 24, 1941, all passenger service between Wilmington and Avalon was suspended by applicant in the interest of National Defense. No passenger service has been rendered between these points since that date. Daily (except Sunday) service has been rendered by tugs, barges and water taxis for the transportation of United States mail, perishables and freight. Applicant alleges that the discontinuance of steamship service has created severe hardship upon the citizens and residents of the City of Avalon, who depend upon such service for travel between Avalon and the mainland. Since December 24, 1941, conditions have somewhat improved, which applicant believes will permit the resumption of steamship service between Avalon and the mainland.

Applicant now proposes to institute a service, consisting of one round trip daily, between Wilmington and Avalon via the steamship "Cabrillo," for the transportation of passengers. This steamship has a present capacity of 250 passengers but this capacity will be increased to 500 on or about May 15, 1942. Applicant alleges that the steamship "Cabrillo," which is smaller and more economical to operate than either the "Avalon" or the "Catalina," is large enough to comfortably accommodate all of the traffic anticipated; and that the ultimate disposition of the "Avalon" and the "Catalina" for National Defense purposes is problematical. Applicant estimates that the normal monthly (30-day) cash cost of operating the "Cabrillo" between Avalon and Wilmington has been approximately \$10,000 and, under present conditions, this cost would be increased to approximately \$16,000, due to the fact that war risk insurance at high rates will be required for passengers and members of the crew, as well as hull war risk insurance on the ship. Applicant also anticipates that forty per cent bonus wages will be paid

to the crew in accordance with Maritime War Emergency Board Decision No. 2 of January 10, 1942.

Applicant proposes the following fares:

One-way fare	\$2.47
Round trip fare	\$4.28
Special parties (30 to 99 adults), Round trip fare	\$3.76
Special parties (100 or more adults), Round trip fare	\$3.09

The proposed fares are indicated in odd cents so that such fares, plus the five per cent Federal transportation tax, will make the fare end in "0" or "5." Applicant does not propose any increase in its commutation tickets or in its present freight rates.

In support of this application, applicant avers that the citizens and residents of Avalon who will patronize the resumed service and the amount of freight which will be carried are insufficient to defray the operating cost of such service; however, it is believed that additional passenger traffic can be developed at the increased fares to at least defray the cost of operation. On or about February 21, 1942, the Chicago National League Baseball Club will arrive in Avalon for a stay of approximately four weeks of spring training, which no doubt will attract many baseball fans to Avalon, and the resultant publicity will again acquaint the public with the fact that service to and from Catalina has been resumed. The armed forces now located at Santa Catalina Island, in connection with National Defense activities, no doubt will utilize the passenger service between Catalina and Wilmington.

The Commission, by its Emergency Resolution No. EM-T-5, dated January 20, 1942, has provided "that whenever any common carrier by vessel shall find necessary temporarily to curtail or discontinue service because of the lawful orders or requirements of

any constituted public authority and because of conditions arising from the present war emergency, such common carrier by vessel is hereby authorized to curtail or discontinue its service or schedules without prior notice or change made in its time schedules, as required by existing General Order No. 87."

Applicant needs no specific authority to reestablish the service which was suspended due to the National emergency.

After a careful review of the facts presented in the application, together with an investigation by the Commission's staff, it is concluded that the increase in rates proposed should be authorized for the duration of the National emergency, with the understanding that applicant will, prior to or immediately after the termination of such emergency, restore the rates to the present level. It does not appear that this is a matter in which a public hearing is necessary.

O R D E R

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Wilmington Transportation Company be and it is hereby authorized to increase its one-way, round trip and party rates between Wilmington and Avalon as follows:

One-way fare	\$2.47
Round trip fare	\$4.28
Special parties (30 to 99 adults), Round trip fare	\$3.76
Special parties (100 or more adults), Round trip fare	\$3.09

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Wilmington Transportation Company be and it is hereby authorized to publish and file the increases authorized herein on not less than one (1) day's notice to

the Commission and the public.

The authority herein granted shall be void unless the rates and charges are published and filed and made effective within not more than sixty (60) days from the effective date hereof.

The effective date of this Order shall be the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 10th day of February, 1942.

Justin J. Casper
Ray L. Kirby
M. Baker
Frank R. Havenner
Robert K. ...

Commissioners.