

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 40563

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of the
 MOUNTAIN STAGE LINE, INC., for a certifi-
 cate of public convenience and necessity
 to operate automobile passenger service,
 including incidental baggage and express,
 as a common carrier between Julian, San
 Diego County, and Brawley, Imperial County,
 and between San Diego and Santee, San
 Diego County (via Grantville), and to oper-
 ate "on call" passenger service, including
 incidental baggage and express, between
 Julian and Pine Hills Lodge; between Julian
 and Cuyamaca Lodge, Cuyamaca Lake and
 intermediate points; and between Borego
 Store and other points in Borego Valley,
 all in San Diego County, California.

Application No. 28330

Alton H. Putnam for applicant. Dale Harlan for San Diego
 Electric Railway Company; John H. Dawson for Camano del Rio Prop-
 erties, Inc., interested parties.

O P I N I O N

Applicant requests authority to (1) establish a scheduled passenger stage service between San Diego and Brawley, via Julian and Borego Valley, by rerouting and extending the service it now operates between San Diego and Julian; (2) establish an "on call" passenger stage service between Julian, on the one hand, and Pine Hills, Cuyamaca Lake, and Mt. Laguna resorts, on the other hand; and (3) establish an "on call" service between points in Borego Valley.

A public hearing was held in San Diego on July 11, 1947, before Examiner Chiesa, and evidence having been adduced, the

matter was submitted for decision.

Applicant, a California corporation, now operates a passenger stage service for the transportation of persons, baggage, and express, between San Diego and Julian, and intermediate points, via La Mesa, El Cajon, Santee, Lakeside, and Ramona, subject to restrictions against the transportation of persons locally between San Diego and El Cajon, and intermediate points, and the transportation of express between San Diego and Ramona, and intermediate points (Decisions Nos. 23369, 33560, and 37178).

Applicant now operates three round trips daily. Instead of operating along the present route via La Mesa and El Cajon, applicant proposes to reroute, westerly of Santee, via Mission Valley Road (Camino del Rio), and to extend one schedule from Julian to Brawley via Borego Valley. The record is not clear whether applicant desires to wholly abandon or curtail its present operations between San Diego and Santee, and no evidence was offered that would justify either abandonment or curtailment of this portion of its present route. Although applicant is restricted from carrying local passengers westerly of El Cajon, this route (U. S. Highway 80) is along a highly developed business and residential area which is a logical source of revenue for this carrier, which offers transportation to and from the mountain residential and resort areas between El Cajon and Julian.

The evidence shows that the proposed Mission Valley Road route is in an area which is comparatively undeveloped, the principal improvements along the 16 miles between Morena Boulevard, in San Diego, and Santee being a golf course, the Mission San Diego

de Alcala, a country school, a juvenile hall, two gravel pits, a roadside store and filling station, and a small number of residences and ranches. The evidence does not show that the proposed operation along this route would materially add to applicant's revenues or would be compensatory.

A business representative of the Borego Land and Development Company, and of other companies interested in the development of property in Borego Valley, testified concerning the present and proposed residential, business, and recreational improvements in said valley. Although this witness's testimony indicates that public transportation may become a necessity in this area in the near future, the establishment at this time of a regular scheduled service beyond Julian, or the operation of the proposed "on call" services between points in Borego Valley, as proposed, does not appear to have been justified.

The record also is unconvincing that public convenience and necessity require the establishment of an "on call" service between Julian, on the one hand, and Pine Hills, Cuyamaca Lake, and Mt. Laguna resorts, on the other hand. Other than applicant's general manager, only one witness, a representative of a San Diego travel bureau, testified in favor of this service.

Applicant's manager testified that present operations are being conducted "on a profit basis" but no evidence was presented in support of his statement; and, although this witness is purchasing all of applicant's outstanding shares and has been operating its business for the past several months, he was unable to offer into the record financial and operating statements of the

company. The Commission records show that the last financial and operating statements filed by this operator were as of December 31, 1945.

Upon consideration of the entire record herein we are unable to find that public convenience and necessity require the establishment and operation of any of the passenger stage services proposed by applicant and, therefore, the application will be denied.

ORDER

A public hearing having been held in the above-entitled proceeding, and the Commission being fully advised in the premises,

IT IS ORDERED that the above-entitled application be, and it hereby is, denied.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 29th day of July, 1947.

Harold P. Kula
Justus F. Garner
Frank H. Farrell

COMMISSIONERS