

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 41218

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of the)
MOUNTAIN STAGE LINE, for permission to)
change its rules and regulations and)
rates for the handling of express packages)
not exceeding one hundred pounds in weight,) Application No. 28729
as authorized by Decisions Nos. 23369,)
33560 and 37178, to provide for assessment)
of rates upon a unit basis, in lieu of the)
present rates.)

Alton H. Putnam, for applicant, and for
Julian Warner Truck Line, interested party.

Harry W. Rae, for Eisher Truck Line, interested
party.

O P I N I O N

Mountain Stage Line is a California corporation operating a common carrier passenger stage service for the transportation of persons, baggage, and express between San Diego and Julian and certain intermediate points.¹ By its application it seeks authority to revise the scale of rates and charges it assesses for the transportation of express.

Public hearing was had before Examiner Abernathy at San Diego on January 9, 1948 at which time the matter was submitted for decision.

Applicant's present express rates are set forth in its Express Tariff Cal. P.U.C. No. 1; its proposed rates are set forth in detail in the application. The present rates are mileage rates which vary with the classification of the article shipped and are subject to specified minimum charges. In lieu of present

¹ Service is restricted against the transportation of persons between San Diego and El Cajon and of express between San Diego and Ramona.

rates, specified charges are proposed which are based upon the weights of the shipments and upon the distances over which the shipments are transported.² Special charges for certain commodities are also proposed.

An objective of the proposal is the maintenance of applicant's express service as one for small shipments. A witness testified that although large shipments are carried from time to time, the passenger vehicles which are used in the combined passenger and express operations are better suited for the transportation of small packages. He said that the greater number of packages carried are small lots of edibles to meet emergency needs of restaurants, grocery stores, and markets in Julian. The witness stated that except as to the larger shipments generally the proposed charges are approximately the same or are less than those currently assessed, and that establishment of the proposed charges would have little effect upon applicant's revenues. He thought that a consequence of the establishment of such charges would be that shippers would tend to divert their larger shipments to the Julian-Warner Truck Line, a highway common carrier which provides general freight

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Illustrative of the charges under present and proposed rates are those set forth below for transportation of shipments of the weights indicated between San Diego and Julian:

<u>Weight of Shipment in Pounds</u>		<u>Charges in Cents</u>	
<u>Over</u>	<u>But Not Over</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
0	5	47	30
15	20	47	50
35	45	59	65
60	75	71	80
Charge for a 250-pound first class shipment		233	255
Charge for a 250-pound fourth class shipment		168	255

Rates for recently authorized express service between Ramona and Del Mar, between Julian and Brawley, and between other designated points (Decisions Nos. 41029 and 41068) are not involved in this proceeding.

transportation service for approximately the same area involved in this proceeding.³

A further objective of the proposed rate revisions is the simplification of operating procedures because of elimination of the need for classifying shipments, a procedure which applicant considers burdensome and unreasonable under the circumstances of its operations. Another purpose is the establishment of charges for the transportation of express which are comparable to those assessed by other passenger stage companies. By so doing applicant believes it will promote customer good will and eliminate confusion. Applicant's witness stated that the proposed charges are the same as those to be established for similar express service authorized by Decisions Nos. 41029 and 41068, supra.

No one appeared in opposition to the granting of the application.

The evidence adduced in this proceeding is convincing that the proposed adjustment would be in the public interest. The revision in charges, in so far as it would act to maintain the express service as a service for which applicant's facilities are suited, appears reasonable. Such increases in charges on some shipments as would result would be largely offset by lesser charges on other shipments. The total effect upon the transportation costs to applicant's patrons would not be substantial. Authorization of the proposal would enable applicant to establish charges corresponding

³ It appears from an inspection of the Julian-Warner Truck Lines' Local Freight Tariff Cal. P.U.C. No. 5, on file with the Commission, that the freight rates assessed by this carrier are generally the same as those which applicant currently maintains.

to those to be established in connection with the extended express service, recently authorized and referred to herein, and would, therefore, permit applicant to maintain a uniform scale of charges which could be readily understood and computed by both applicant's patrons and its employees.

Upon careful consideration of all of the facts and circumstances of record, the Commission is of the opinion and hereby finds as a fact that establishment of the charges which are specified in the following order is justified. The application will be granted.

O R D E R

A public hearing having been had in the above entitled application, and based upon the evidence received at the hearing and upon the conclusions and findings set forth in the preceding opinion,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Mountain Stage Line be and it is hereby authorized, on not less than thirty (30) days' notice to the Commission and to the public, to amend its Express Tariff Cal. P.U.C. No. 1, pertaining to the transportation of express between San Diego and Julian, and intermediate points, as follows:

- (1) To cancel present express class rates and minimum charges.
- (2) To cancel rules and regulations providing for the classification of shipments in accordance with the provisions of the Western Classification No. 72, Cal. P.U.C.-W.C.No. 5 of R. C. Fyfe, Agent, of the Pacific Freight Tariff Bureau Exception Sheet No. 1-R, Cal. P.U.C. No. 133 of J. P. Haynes, Agent, and of the supplements and reissues of such publications.

(3) To establish the following scale of charges:

Weight of Shipment (in Pounds)		Charges for Shipment		
		M I L E S	M I L E S	M I L E S
Over	But Not Over	35 Miles And Under	Over 35 Miles But Not Over 45 Miles	Over 45 Miles But Not Over 85 Miles
0	5	\$.25	\$.25	\$.30
5	10	.25	.30	.35
10	15	.30	.35	.40
15	20	.35	.40	.50
20	25	.40	.45	.55
25	35	.40	.50	.60
35	45	.45	.55	.65
45	60	.50	.60	.75
60	75	.55	.65	.80
75	100	.60	.70	.90

Charges for a single shipment weighing in excess of 100 pounds shall be computed as follows:

For each 100 pounds of the shipment, assess the charge provided in the foregoing table for a shipment of 100 pounds; for any fraction of 100 pounds remaining, assess the charge provided in the table for a shipment of like weight.

(4) To establish the following commodity rates and charges:

Newspapers, any quantity 3/4 cent each
 Newspapers will be accepted for transportation from any one shipper to any number of consignees. No delivery receipt to be required nor supplied. A minimum charge of 25 cents will be assessed for any quantity of newspapers tendered for transportation by any one shipper during any one day.

Fresh fruits and vegetables, per lug or case not exceeding 30 pounds, gross weight 35 cents
 Fresh milk, per commercial shipping case 40 cents
 Fresh or cold storage eggs (whole eggs), per commercial shipping case 75 cents

(5) Transportation charges for shipments of commodities for which specific charges are provided herein shall be such charges or the applicable charges provided by the foregoing table in paragraph (3), whichever are the lower.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that the authority herein granted shall be void unless rates, charges, rules and regulations published pursuant to this authority are filed and made effective within ninety (90) days from the effective date of this order.

This order shall become effective twenty (20) days from the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 10th day of February, 1948.

K. J. Induray
Justin J. Greenes
Wright Russell
Harold P. Kula
Freemuth Dutton
Commissioners