

Decision No. 2219

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL)
 PARKS CO., a corporation, for an)
 "in lieu" certificate authorizing)
 operations from Tulare, California,)
 in the place and stead of present)
 operations from Fresno, California,)
 in connection with service to and)
 from Sequoia National Park and for)
 appropriate authority to abandon)
 service at certain points, and for)
 an order authorizing sightseeing)
 service between Giant Forest,)
 Sequoia National Park, and Grant)
 Grove and Cedar Grove.)

Application No. 30120

O P I N I O N

By this application, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Co., a corporation, seeks to modify its passenger stage service of carrying the traveling public and express not in excess of 100 pounds per package to and from Sequoia National Park and Kings Canyon National Park. This service has heretofore been operated from Fresno through Visalia where from both such cities passengers have been received primarily from railroads and other (1) bus lines.

Authority is hereby sought to reroute and reorganize the service in such manner as to provide for the commencement of service into the parks from Tulare, instead of from Fresno. Applicant proposes to proceed over a more direct route to the point of Giant Forest, in Sequoia National Park, serving Visalia

(1) Decision No. 27785 on Application No. 19834; Decision No. 35450 on Applications Nos. 25007 and 25032; and Decision No. 39426.

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and Ash Mountain (the Park Headquarters) as intermediate points in connection with operations to and from Giant Forest. Authority also is sought to abandon service at Fresno and other points heretofore served, and to provide an "on call" sightseeing service between Giant Forest in Sequoia National Park and Grant Grove and Cedar Grove.

A public hearing was held before Examiner Rowe, at Tulare, on April 20, 1949, at which time oral and documentary evidence was adduced and the matter was submitted for decision. Counsel for applicant requested that the application be considered as requesting that the service be authorized daily commencing each year on the Saturday next before Memorial Day and ending on the second Monday of September. During the balance of the year, an "on call" service is proposed. This requested amendment of the application was granted.

No one appeared to protest the application.

Mr. George L. Mauger, Vice President and General Manager of applicant, testified that there are ~~three~~ centers of interest in the two parks above referred to, and they are the Giant Forest, Grant Grove, and Cedar Grove. Applicant maintains facilities at each of these centers. Mr. Mauger stated that by commencing operations from Tulare, passengers from the North could remain on the San Joaquin Daylight of the Southern Pacific and enjoy air-conditioned comfort to Tulare, or use some other established common carrier service instead of riding over the same territory in applicant's buses or limousines, which, during the heat of summer, are not so comfortable.

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The trip from Tulare would be much shorter and would allow for several additional hours at the park and make possible lower fares. According to Mr. Fifield, Assistant Traffic Manager of the Santa Fe Transportation Company, applicant's service, if the proposed changes are authorized, would result in lower fares, better connection with other common carriers, and the passengers would have additional time to spend in the parks. Also, more economical package tours would be possible. Representatives of the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe Railroads appeared and requested approval of the application, as did the Pacific Greyhound Lines. Mr. Afarca, Secretary-Manager of the Tulare Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Harry W. Perry, a supervisor of Tulare County, both testified and expressed the hope that the application would receive favorable action.

Mr. E. G. Scoyen, Superintendent of Sequoia, and Kings Canyon Parks, also testified for the applicant and read a telegram from the Regional Director of the National Park Service, stating that the operation, as proposed in the application, had the approval of Mr. Drury, Director of the National Park Service.

Upon full consideration of the record in this proceeding, the Commission finds, as a fact, that the requested modifications of applicant's operations are required by public convenience and necessity. These modifications, consisting of certain abandonments and reroutings, will be accomplished by issuing to applicant, as requested, a new certificate in the place and stead of the certificate issued by Decision No. 27785 in Application No. 19834, as modified by Decisions Nos. 35450 and 39426.

O R D E R

Public hearing having been held in the above-entitled proceeding, the Commission being fully advised in the premises and having found that public convenience and necessity so require,

IT IS ORDERED:

(1) That a certificate of public convenience and necessity be and is hereby granted to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Co., a corporation, authorizing the establishment and operation of service as a passenger stage corporation, as defined in Section 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Public Utilities Act, for the transportation of passengers and express not in excess of 100 pounds per package between the City of Tulare and the City of Visalia, on the one hand, and Sequoia National Park and Kings Canyon National Park, on the other hand, subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

- (a) No passengers shall be carried between Visalia and Tulare, or any intermediate points, who have not purchased transportation to or from some point in Sequoia National Park or Kings Canyon National Park.
- (b) Except for the period commencing with the Saturday next prior to Memorial Day and ending with the Monday next following Labor Day of each year, when the service shall be daily, the service shall be "on call" and shall be made upon demand and the purchase of a ticket.
- (c) The sightseeing service shall be operated between Giant Forest, on the one hand, and Grant Grove and Cedar Grove, on the other hand, as an "on call" tour and shall be made upon demand and the purchase of a minimum of four tickets.

(2) That in providing service pursuant to the certificate herein granted, applicant shall comply with and observe the following service regulations:

- (a) Applicant shall file a written acceptance of the certificate herein granted within a period of not to exceed thirty (30) days after the effective date hereof.
- (b) Applicant shall, within sixty (60) days after the effective date hereof, and upon not less than five (5) days' notice to the Commission and the public, establish the service herein authorized and comply with provisions of General Orders Nos. 79 and 80 and Part IV of General Order No. 93-A, by filing, in triplicate, and concurrently making effective, tariffs and time schedules satisfactory to the Commission.
- (c) Subject to the authority of this Commission to change or modify such at any time, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Co., a corporation, shall conduct said passenger stage operations over and along the following described routes:

REGULAR ROUTE

From points in Tulare, California, over and along the most appropriate streets, roads, and highways, to a junction with unnumbered highway (commonly known as Visalia Highway); thence over said unnumbered highway in a northerly direction to California Highway 198; thence over California Highway 198 to Giant Forest in Sequoia National Park and return over the same route, serving Ash Mountain as an intermediate point.

SIGHTSEEING SERVICE

From Giant Forest, on the one hand, to Grant Grove and Cedar Grove, on the other hand, and return, over and along the most appropriate streets, roads, and highways in said parks, and over Generals Highway and State Highway 180.

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(3) That the certificate of public convenience and necessity granted to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Co., a corporation, in the order of Decision No. 27785, as subsequently amended and modified by Decision No. 35450 and Decision No. 39426, including the descriptions of routes therein, is hereby revoked and annulled.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 9th
day of May, 1949.

R. F. Ingraham
Justin F. Cooney
Harold A. Keli
Samuel L. Foster
COMMISSIONERS