

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 43192

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of )  
LOS ANGELES TRONA STAGES, INC., A )  
California corporation, for authority) Application No. 30378  
to reroute, extend, and abandon por- )  
tions of its passenger stage routes. )

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, by Woodward W. Taylor, for  
applicant. A. G. Marquardt for the community of Little Rock;  
R. W. Cowden for the San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce, inter-  
ested parties.

O P I N I O N

Los Angeles Trona Stages, Inc., is authorized to trans-  
port passengers, baggage, and shipments of express weighing not  
in excess of 100 pounds each, on passenger-carrying vehicles,  
between Los Angeles and Trona, and intermediate points, via Palmdale,  
Mojave, and Beecher's Corners; via Muroc Army Air Field; and, also  
via San Bernardino, Cajon, Adelanto, and Beecher's Corners<sup>(1)</sup>.

Applicant's service is now restricted between San  
Bernardino and the junction of U. S. Highways Nos. 395 and 66, in  
the vicinity of Adelanto; and, between Los Angeles and the junction  
of U. S. Highways Nos. 395 and 66, in the vicinity of Adelanto;  
between San Bernardino and Mojave, and intermediate points, via

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(1) Decision No. 35970, on Application No. 25294; Decision No.  
36264, on Application No. 25538; Decision No. 37000, on Appli-  
cation No. 25294, 3rd Supplemental; Decision No. 38310, on  
Application No. 25294, Amended 4th Supplemental; Applicant  
also operates seasonally between Trona and Valley Wells,  
Decision No. 37080, on Application No. 26140.

Los Angeles; and, between points south of Muroc Army Air Field and the intersection of the county road with U. S. Highway No. 6 approximately four miles south of Palmdale<sup>(2)</sup>.

Authority is now sought to (a) abandon that portion of the route between Lancaster and Muroc Junction via Mojave, (b) abandon that portion of the route over county highways between an intersection with U. S. Highway No. 6 approximately four miles south of Palmdale and an intersection of county highways just east of Roosevelt, (c) reroute via Lancaster, Roosevelt, Muroc, and Muroc Junction, (d) establish an off-route service between Ridgecrest and the Naval Ordnance Test Station (N.O.T.S.), a distance of two miles<sup>(3)</sup>.

A public hearing was held in Randsburg on July 21, 1949. Evidence, oral and documentary, having been adduced, the matter was submitted for decision.

Several witnesses testified against applicant's proposal to abandon or curtail service into Randsburg. The request to withdraw the service entirely was withdrawn and applicant now proposes to continue to serve Randsburg, via San Bernardino, establishing one schedule daily in each direction. Two schedules are now operated into Randsburg but evidence offered by the company, which was not refuted, shows that less than one passenger per trip is carried to and from this point. Applicant's proposal to operate one trip daily in each direction into Randsburg appears adequate under present circumstances.

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(2) Decision No. 41353, on Application No. 29078, Ordering paragraphs (1) and (2); and, Decision No. 37000, Part I, paragraph (2), subparagraph (d).

(3) Applicant had also requested authority to abandon service to and from Randsburg but withdrew said request at the hearing.

Opposition developed to the proposed abandonment of that portion of the route easterly of Palmdale, via the Little Rock area. The record shows that Little Rock is a small farm- or ranch-type community of some one to two hundred residents living throughout a large area about two miles southerly from applicant's present route. The segment of the route proposed to be abandoned is now restricted. The evidence also shows that the territory traversed is open country with the exception of an occasional ranch and the small settlement of Little Rock. The route applicant has chosen to serve is via Palmdale, Lancaster, and Roosevelt. The latter route, although partially restricted, will be more convenient for, and will serve, a greater number of persons. This proposal appears justified and in the public interest.

There was no opposition to the proposed abandonment of the Mojave route. The evidence shows that applicant will save approximately 40 route miles daily if it is permitted to discontinue its operation via Mojave. Applicant's cost of operation is approximately 27 cents per mile whereas applicant's revenue on the Mojave segment is only 8 cents per mile as compared to 18 cents per mile for the whole system. Applicant's manager testified that operating loss for the year 1947 was in excess of \$11,000 and the 1948 loss was \$5,427.79. The proposed changes, in the opinion of this witness, will increase revenues by operating into the Naval Ordnance Test Station (N.O.T.S.), and decrease costs by reducing the number of miles operated.

The community manager of the N.O.T.S. testified that there are in excess of 10,000 persons at the base; that taxi fare from Ridgecrest, a distance of two miles, is 75 cents one way; that a need exists for applicant's service; and that applicant will be permitted to enter the base and operate to and from the Plaza which is an additional mile within the main gate.

Applicant proposes a fare of 25 cents, one way, between said base and Ridgecrest. Applicant proposes no change in fares. The application is not opposed by other carriers. Applicant has agreed not to transport through passengers between N.O.T.S. and any point westerly of the City of Arcadia. Existing restrictions will be amended to conform to the proposed route changes and the discontinuance of service by a formerly competing carrier<sup>(4)</sup>.

Upon full consideration of all the evidence of record, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that public convenience and necessity require that applicant be authorized to discontinue and extend service as hereinafter set forth.

O R D E R

A public hearing having been held, the Commission being fully advised in the premises and finding that public convenience and necessity so require,

IT IS ORDERED:

(1) That a certificate of public convenience and necessity be, and it hereby is, granted to Los Angeles Trona Stages, Inc., a corporation, authorizing the establishment and operation of a service as a passenger stage corporation, as defined in Section 2½ of the Public Utilities Act, for the transportation of passengers, baggage, and shipments of express weighing not in excess of 100 pounds each, between Ridgecrest and the Naval Ordnance Test Station (N.O.T.S.), as an extension and enlargement of, and to be consolidated with, applicant's existing rights in said territory,

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(4) By Decision No. 40036, on Application No. 26035, 1st Supplemental, the operative right granted to Harry Stellar by Decision No. 37000 was revoked. Applicant was restricted in favor of this carrier along one of the routes proposed to be abandoned.

subject to the following restriction:

No through passengers will be transported between N.O.T.S. and any point on that portion of applicant's route lying westerly of the City of Arcadia.

(2) That in providing service pursuant to the certificate herein granted, there shall be compliance with 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 the provisions of General Order No. 79 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, Los Angeles Trona Stages, Inc., shall conduct said passenger stage service over and along the following described route:

Between Ridgecrest and the Naval Ordnance Test Station via county roads.

(3) That the portion of the first ordering paragraph appearing on sheet 4 of Decision No. 35970, on Application No. 25294, and beginning with the word "between" on line seven and continuing to and including the words "West End" on line thirteen, as amended by ordering paragraph (1), (a) of Decision No. 38310, on Application No. 25294 Amended 4th Supplemental, shall be deleted and the following shall be substituted in lieu thereof:

between, (a) Los Angeles and Trona and intermediate points, via Lancaster, Roosevelt, Muroc, Beecher's Corners, and Ridgecrest; and (b) San Bernardino and Trona, and intermediate points, via Cajon, Adelanto, Beecher's Corners and Ridgecrest;.

(4) That paragraph 1. of the Order in Decision No. 35970, appearing on sheet 4 thereof, be, and it hereby is, amended to read as follows:

1. No passengers, baggage or express may be transported the origin and destination of which are between Los Angeles and Lancaster or intermediate points. Service may be provided from points in the restricted area to points outside such restricted area, or from points outside said restricted area to points inside said restricted area.

(5) That paragraph 1. of the Order in Decision No. 36264, on Application No. 25538, appearing on sheet 2 thereof, as amended by paragraph (2) of the Order in Decision No. 41353, on Application No. 29078, be, and it hereby is, further amended to read as follows:

No passengers, baggage or express may be transported which have both origin and destination in the area lying between Los Angeles and the junction of U. S. Highways Nos. 395 and 66 in the vicinity of Adelanto. No passengers, baggage or express may be transported the origin and destination of which are between San Bernardino and Lancaster, or intermediate points, via Los Angeles. Service may be provided from points in the restricted areas to points outside the restricted areas or from points outside the restricted areas to points inside the restricted areas.

(6) That paragraph 3. of the service regulations appearing on sheet 5 of Decision No. 35970, as amended in paragraph (2) of the Order in Decision No. 38310, be, and it hereby is, further amended to read as follows:

3. Applicant shall conduct said passenger stage service over and along the following routes, subject to the authority of this Commission to change or modify them at any time by further order:

Between Los Angeles and Trona, via Lancaster, Roosevelt, Muroc Junction, Beecher's Corners, and Ridgecrest, over U. S. Highways Nos. 99 and 6 to Lancaster, thence county roads to Roosevelt and Muroc Junction, thence U. S. Highways Nos. 466, 395, and county road to Ridgecrest, thence county roads, via West End, to Trona.

Between San Bernardino and Trona via Cajon, Adelanto, Beecher's Corners, Johannesburg (including the off-route point of Randsburg), and Ridgecrest, over U. S. Highway 395 and county road to Ridgecrest, thence county roads, via West End, to Trona.

Also, between Red Mountain and Johannesburg, over county roads, via Randsburg, as an alternate route.

(7) That the portion of paragraph (1) of Part I of Decision No. 37000, on Application No. 25294, Third Supplemental (45 CRC at page 328), beginning with the word "between" on line five and continuing to and including the word "Field" on line seven, shall be deleted and the following shall be substituted in lieu thereof:

between Muroc Junction and Lancaster, and intermediate points, via Muroc Army Air Field and Roosevelt.

(8) That subparagraph (c) of the service regulations appearing in paragraph (2) of Part I of said Decision No. 37000 shall be amended to read as follows:

(c) Subject to the authority of this Commission to change or modify it by further order, applicant shall conduct operations, pursuant to the certificate herein granted, over and along the following route:

Over county highways between Muroc Junction and Lancaster via Muroc Army Air Field and Roosevelt.

(9) That subparagraph (d) of the service regulations appearing in paragraph (2), of Part I of Decision 37000 be, and it hereby is, annulled and revoked.

(10) That in all other respects Decisions Nos. 35970, 36264, 37000, 38310, and 41353 shall remain in full force and effect.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1949.

P. J. Dwyer

Irving M. Lawrence

Samuel Potter  
COMMISSIONERS