

Decision No. 42585**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
 THE PACIFIC TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH
 COMPANY, a corporation,
 for authority to discontinue the
 operation of a telephone exchange at
 Fulton, Sonoma County, California.

Application No. 30788.

OPINION AND ORDER

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, a corporation, operating a telephone system in California and elsewhere, herein seeks authority to discontinue its Fulton exchange, Sonoma County, effective on or before January 1, 1950.

Fulton exchange, located in the central portion of Sonoma County, serves an area of approximately four square miles, including the small agricultural community of Fulton. The exchange is located approximately eight miles northwest of Santa Rosa and five miles southeast of Windsor.

Applicant states the Fulton exchange, which was established in 1904, had a maximum station development of 37 stations in 1915 and at present serves 11 company stations, including one public telephone, and three farmer line stations. There are also 43 subscribers to Santa Rosa foreign exchange service located within the Fulton serving area.

Applicant proposes to enlarge the exchange area of its Santa Rosa exchange, Sonoma County, to include the area now within the Fulton exchange and to provide Santa Rosa service, including suburban and farmer line service, to the present subscribers. Applicant proposes to discontinue the present exchange public telephone and establish a public toll station at Fulton to serve the requirements of the transient public.

Santa Rosa is served by common battery manual equipment which will make continuous exchange and message toll service available to present Fulton subscribers. Fulton was served through November 2, 1949 by means of a magneto central office, service being provided between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. on weekdays with no service being furnished on Sundays and holidays. On November 2, 1949, applicant's agent in Fulton ceased to perform the services as an agent, and the applicant assertedly is unable to obtain the services of another agent, so that Fulton exchange subscribers are now being furnished service on a temporary basis by direct connection to toll lines to Santa Rosa.

The provision of Santa Rosa individual line business service to the one present individual line Fulton customer, which is the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, will result in an increase of \$8.25 per month in exchange charges. The provision of Santa Rosa suburban service to the remaining Fulton subscribers, other than farmer line subscribers, will result in increases of 50 cents or \$1 per month. The provision of such service to the present farmer line subscribers will result in an increase of \$2.75 per month to each of the three subscribers. However, toll charges to Fulton subscribers for toll messages to Santa Rosa will be eliminated. All of the subscribers, except one farmer line subscriber, have agreed to the change, and photostatic copies of applications for Santa Rosa service signed by the subscribers affected are attached to the application as Exhibit A. Attached to the application, as Exhibit B, is a letter, dated September 29, 1949, from the former agent notifying applicant that the agent desires to relinquish such position effective at such time as the Fulton exchange is discontinued. The application states that one farmer line service subscriber has refused to apply for Santa Rosa suburban service unless it is provided at the present Fulton farmer line service rate of 50 cents per month and that the applicant is not willing to provide Santa Rosa sub-

urban service on an irregular basis. Applicant, however, offers to provide Santa Rosa suburban or farmer line service at the established rate to this subscriber.

Should this subscriber elect to take suburban service he would receive continuous common battery service in place of magneto limited hour service and would be relieved from the necessity of owning and maintaining his farmer line and instrument.

The exchange service charges of the present Fulton subscribers will be increased by \$288 a year, but these subscribers will benefit from an annual saving in toll charges of approximately \$400, and the charges to the Santa Rosa foreign exchange subscribers in the Fulton exchange will be reduced by \$441 a year, resulting in a net saving of \$553 on an annual basis to customers located in the Fulton exchange. Applicant proposes to establish a toll station in lieu of and at the same location in Fulton as the present public telephone to care for the telephone requirements of the general and transient public. The rates applicable to toll messages originating at this toll station will be the same as those presently applicable to toll messages originating at the Fulton exchange. The rates applicable to intrastate message toll telephone service to certain exchanges within 40 miles, for Fulton subscribers, will be increased by five cents over nine routes, will be decreased five cents over 15 routes, and will be unchanged to 18 of 42 points within 40 miles of Santa Rosa and Fulton. For the period October 16, 1948, to April 15, 1949, there was an average of 161 intrastate toll messages per month from the Fulton exchange, other than those originating at the public telephone, with associated revenue of approximately \$27.

The Commission, having considered the request of applicant and being of the opinion that the application should be granted and that a public hearing is not necessary, hereby finds as a fact that the increases in rates herein authorized are justified; therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company is authorized on or before January 1, 1950 to discontinue its Fulton exchange, to cancel its rate schedules and map, effective for exchange telephone service in the Fulton exchange area and in lieu thereof to include the present Fulton exchange area within the exchange area of the Santa Rosa exchange, to provide Santa Rosa exchange service to the subscribers mentioned above and to discontinue the public pay station located in the Fulton exchange and in lieu thereof to establish a public toll station.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the necessary tariff schedules in accordance with General Order No. 96 shall be filed not less than five (5) days prior to the provision of the Santa Rosa exchange service and establishment of the toll station service hereinabove authorized.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 6th day of December, 1949.

R. Z. [Signature]
Justus J. [Signature]
[Signature]

Commissioners