

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 44075

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)	
RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY, INC. to close)	Application No. 31022
its agency office at Alameda, Alameda)	
County, California.)	

- D. A. ZINKE, for Railway Express Agency, Inc., Applicant
- J. P. CLARK, for City of Alameda, Protestant
- W. G. WERNER, interested party, Protestant
- M. J. LANDY, Alameda Chamber of Commerce, Protestant
- A. I. LAWRENCE, for the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, Protestant
- J. I. GILBERT, for the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks,
Freight Handlers Express and Station Employees, Protestant
- P. W. BARNARD, Interested Party

O P I N I O N

In this application Railway Express Agency, Inc. requests permission to abandon its agency office in the City of Alameda and to handle all Alameda business through its Oakland office.

A public hearing was held in Alameda on March 3, 1950, before Commissioner Potter, at which time the matter was submitted.

At the present time all of applicant's pick-up and delivery service in Alameda is made by trucks routed through its Oakland office. It was alleged, and the tariffs so indicate, that the abandonment of the agency will not affect the pick-up and delivery service or make any change in the tariffs, as Alameda is within the East Bay pick-up and delivery limits of applicant. The only business handled by the agency in Alameda is over-the-counter shipments.

For the month of January, 1950, 292 shipments were forwarded and 87 received, a total of 379 shipments, or an average of 18 transactions per day; and for the month of February, 1950, 374 shipments were handled in both directions, or an average of 20 transactions per working day. On the other hand, during January, 1950, 2,426 shipments were handled by the pick-up and delivery service. Of the total express shipments in January, only about 13 per cent passed through the agency office. February shows approximately the same relation. The record shows that these two months are average for express traffic. Applicant stated that in order to

keep the agent busy, office work not related to the Alameda agency was sent to him from the Oakland office. Applicant also showed that the abandonment of the agency would result in a saving to it of about \$150 per month and that it was necessary to make every possible economy to avoid higher rates and thus loss of business to parcel post service.

The application was protested by the City of Alameda and other organizations and individuals on the grounds that the agency was necessary for the personal delivery of packages or the transaction of other business, and in the event the agency was closed, protestants would have to transact their business in person with the Railway Express Agency at the nearest office in Oakland.

After reviewing the entire evidence in this proceeding we conclude that the pick-up and delivery service in Alameda by applicant through its Oakland office will give that city the same service that is now rendered to all parts of metropolitan Oakland. With the closing of the agency, any shipments picked up or delivered in Alameda will not be subject to higher charge than at the present time through the Alameda office and persons in Alameda desiring to transact business in person will be required to travel no greater distance to reach an express office than those in many sections of the metropolitan area.

It appears clear that the amount of business handled through the Alameda agency does not warrant its continuance, therefore the application will be granted.

ORDER

A public hearing having been held and the matter being under submission:

IT IS ORDERED that the Railway Express Agency, Inc. is authorized to close its agency office in the City of Alameda, Alameda County, and to amend its tariffs in accordance with the rules of this Commission, subject to the condition that notice be given the public by posting in said office for not less than ten (10) days prior to said abandonment.

The authority herein granted shall lapse and become void if not exercised

within one year after the effective date of this order.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 18th day of April, 1950.

R. Z. Johnson
Justice J. Cooney
Edward D. Farrell
Harriet H. Hild
Fremont D. Potter
 Commissioners