

**ORIGINAL**Decision No. 47241

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of )  
 the CALIFORNIA MEDICAL MISSIONARY )  
 AND BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, a California )  
 corporation D.B.A. HOWELL MOUNTAIN BUS ) Application No. 33212  
 LINE for authority to increase passenger )  
 fares between St. Helena, Sanitarium and )  
Pacific Union College. )

M. D. Elkins for applicant.  
Otto B. Liersch for the Transportation  
 Department, Public Utilities Commission.

O P I N I O N

California Medical Missionary and Benevolent Association is a non-profit corporation which, among other things, conducts a passenger stage operation between St. Helena, Angwin, and intermediate points including Sanitarium, under the name of Howell Mountain Bus Line. By this application, as amended, it seeks authority to establish increased fares.

A public hearing was held before Examiner Gillard in St. Helena on May 2, 1952.

Applicant owns and operates Pacific Union College at Angwin and St. Helena Sanitarium at Sanitarium. It also owns and operates the Howell Mountain Bus Line, mostly as an accommodation to students, nurses, patients and employees of the two institutions mentioned, although some patronage is received from visitors and local residents.

The present adult fares are 15 cents between St. Helena and Sanitarium, 15 cents between Sanitarium and Angwin, and 30 cents for the through trip between St. Helena and Angwin. Applicant proposes to increase each of these fares by five cents, and to eliminate the present round-trip fare, which is double the one-way fare.

Applicant does not propose to change the student commutation fare of \$15 for 120 one-way trips, nor does it propose to change its fare of five cents a mile, subject to a minimum of 10 cents, from and to intermediate points not specified in its tariff.

For the twelve months ending on December 31, 1951, applicant sustained a loss of \$2,992.01 on the Howell Mountain Bus Line. The Commission engineer testifying herein accepted this figure as accurately reflecting the results of operation, except for the omission of \$2,700 spent for public liability insurance on applicant's buses, which was charged erroneously to the hospital accounts. Only two buses are operated at any one time, and this engineer has accordingly allowed \$1,350 of this figure as an expense item in the belief that the insurance premium could be reduced to that amount.

Even with this adjustment, the proposed increases would produce a loss, as disclosed in the following tabulation based upon operations for a period of 12 months:

Item	Applicant		Commission Engineer:	
	Present Fares	Proposed Fares	Present Fares	Proposed Fares
<b>Operating Revenue</b>				
Freight	-----	-----	\$ 292.22	\$ 300.00
Passenger	-----	-----	9,440.35	12,060.00
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 9,732.57	\$11,765.00	\$ 9,732.57	\$ 12,360.00
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>				
Repairs, servicing, tires	\$ 2,953.10	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 2,953.10	\$ 3,500.00
Drivers' Wages	5,393.29	5,013.29	5,393.27	4,800.00
Gasoline & Oil	2,948.70	3,262.00	2,948.70	2,598.00
Other Transp. Exp.	26.04	-----	26.04	-----
Station & terminal	117.54	125.00	117.54	120.00
Insurance	-----	1,350.00	-----	1,350.00
Office	248.24	260.00	248.24	250.00
Depreciation	173.31	173.31	173.31	150.00
Taxes	864.38	858.00	864.38	1,354.00
Total Operating Expense	\$ 12,724.58	\$14,741.60	\$ 12,724.58	\$ 14,122.00

Net Operating				
Income (Loss)	(\$2,992.01)	(\$2,976.60)	(\$ 2,992.01)	(\$ 1,762.00)
Operating Ratio	-----	-----	130.74%	114.26%
Rate Base	-----	-----	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 1,450.00
Bus Miles	-----	-----	64,473	63,650
(Red Figure)				

No detailed analysis of these figures need be undertaken, since even under the estimates of the Commission engineer, a substantial loss will be realized under the proposed rates. This result is consistent with applicant's position that it is primarily interested in supplying a needed service on a non-profit basis. We find that the proposed fare increases have been justified, and therefore the application, as amended, will be granted.

O R D E R

A public hearing having been held and based upon the findings and conclusions in the foregoing opinion,

IT IS ORDERED that applicant be and it is hereby authorized to amend its Local Passenger Tariff, California P.U.C. No. 1, as follows:

- (1) To establish a fare of 20 cents per adult one-way ride between St. Helena and Sanitarium.
- (2) To establish a fare of 20 cents per adult one-way ride between Sanitarium and Angwin.
- (3) To establish a fare of 35 cents per adult one-way ride between St. Helena and Angwin.

(4) To eliminate round trip fares.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that the authority herein granted shall expire ninety (90) days after the effective date of this order.

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

Dated at Los Angeles, California, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1952.

A. F. [Signature]  
President  
Justus J. Casner  
Harold A. Kula  
Samuel [Signature]  
[Signature]  
Commissioners