

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 48079

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 operation of its) Application No. 33926
telephone exchange at Fields Landing)
and to include the Fields Landing)
exchange area within its Eureka)
exchange.)

OPINION AND ORDER

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company filed the above-entitled application on December 5, 1952, for authority to discontinue operation of its Fields Landing exchange, enlarge the area of its exchange at Eureka, and furnish Eureka exchange service within the present Fields Landing exchange area, all in Humboldt County, California.

Fields Landing is located on Humboldt Bay about 6 miles southwest of Eureka. Telephone service was established in 1924 to meet requirements of a lumbering and fishing community. As of November 1, 1952, a total of 87 stations was served. The central office equipment at Fields Landing consists of a magneto manual switchboard and is agency-operated on a continuous-hours-of-service basis.

Coincident with the proposed discontinuance of the Fields Landing exchange, the applicant proposes to include within its Eureka exchange area the territory now within its Fields Landing exchange and to establish an additional base rate area in the Eureka exchange which will include the territory within the present Fields Landing base rate area. Under applicant's plan, continuous hours of service from the Eureka dial central office would be

available to present Fields Landing subscribers in accordance with the Eureka exchange rates. Also, the Fields Landing toll rate point would be discontinued and toll message charges would be based on measurements from the Eureka toll rate point. This change would eliminate the message toll telephone rates now applicable between Fields Landing and Eureka, would increase by five cents the initial period station day rate to Ferndale, Fortuna, Hydesville, Loleta, Miranda, Petrolia, Rio Dell, and Scotia, and would reduce by five cents the basic toll rate to Arcata, Blue Lake, Orick, and Trinidad.

A comparison of the Fields Landing and Eureka rates for the principal classifications of exchange service is as follows:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Fields Landing Continuous Magneto Service</u>	<u>Eureka Continuous Dial Service</u>	<u>Amount Eureka Exceeds Fields Landing</u>
<u>Residence Service</u>			
1-Party	\$3.80	\$4.30	\$0.50
2-Party	3.25	3.50	.25
4-Party	2.70	2.95	.25
Suburban	3.20	3.45	.25
<u>Business Service</u>			
1-Party	6.00	8.25	2.25
2-Party	4.75	6.50	1.75
Suburban	4.50	5.00	.50

The application shows that the discontinuance of the Fields Landing exchange and the placing into effect of the above-described plan would result in an over-all reduction in subscribers' charges for telephone service in the annual amount of \$5,313, the increases in exchange charges being more than offset by the reductions in toll charges. The applicant states it will require approximately seven months in which to effect the consolidation of the Fields Landing and Eureka exchanges as proposed.

Agreement with the applicant's plan for furnishing telephone service has been indicated by each of the present 75 Fields Landing subscribers, as evidenced by signed applications.

It appears that applicant's plan when completed will provide continuous dial service to present Fields Landing subscribers in lieu of the present magneto manual service, will simplify telephone operations, and will not be adverse to the public interest.

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company having applied to this Commission for an order authorizing it to discontinue operation of its telephone exchange at Fields Landing and to include said Fields Landing within its Eureka exchange area, the Commission being of the opinion that a public hearing is not necessary, and that the application should be granted as herein provided,

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT that the increases in rates and charges herein authorized are justified, and that present rates in so far as they differ from those herein prescribed for the future are unjust and unreasonable; therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company on or before August 31, 1953, may discontinue its Fields Landing exchange, cancel its rate schedules and map effective for telephone service in the Fields Landing exchange and in lieu thereof, include the territory presently served by the Fields Landing exchange within the exchange area of the Eureka exchange and provide Eureka exchange service as mentioned above.

2. Necessary changes in tariff schedules in accordance with General Order No. 96 shall be made not less than fifteen (15) days prior to discontinuance of the Fields Landing exchange and the coincident provision of Eureka exchange service.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 22nd day of December, 1952.

R. T. [Signature]
President.

Justus J. Casper
Harold P. Huls

[Signature]
[Signature]
Commissioners.