

Decision No. 50435

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application)
of V. M. McDONALD and JOHN L. HANSEN)
to Operate Passenger Bus Service)
Between San Pedro and the Cities) Application No. 35300
of Palos Verdes Estates and Redondo)
Beach, via Palos Verdes Drive South)
and Palos Verdes Drive West.)

George M. Stephenson, for applicant; R. E. Thomas for Pacific Greyhound Lines, protestant; Don Armstrong for City of Palos Verdes, Franz Nybye for City of Redondo Beach, Dale Harlan for Metropolitan Coach Lines, and M. E. Gainder for City of Los Angeles Department of Public Utilities and Transportation, interested parties.

O P I N I O N

Applicants, doing business as La Rambla and Chammel Heights Bus Line, now operate a passenger stage service in the community of San Pedro. By this application authority is requested to establish a bus service between San Pedro and Redondo Beach along a route which follows the coast line and is known as Palos Verdes Drive South and Palos Verdes Drive West, thence continuing into Redondo Beach.

The primary purpose of establishing said service at this time is to serve a large project known as Marineland now being completed on 65 acres at Long Point, situated approximately midway between San Pedro and Redondo Beach. At first it is intended to operate only, on Saturday and Sunday, two round trips each day. No local traffic will be handled northerly and easterly of the intersection of Western Avenue and Palos Verdes Drive South, nor between the Plaza in Palos Verdes and Redondo Beach.

A public hearing was held in San Pedro before Examiner Mark V. Chiesa. Oral and documentary evidence having been adduced

the matter was submitted for decision.

The record shows that Oceanarium, Inc., a corporation, is about to open a marine life attraction and recreation center to be known as Marineland of the Pacific. Besides the aquarium there will be stores, restaurants, picnic grounds, and other improvements, all costing several millions of dollars. The project will be one of the major tourist attractions of Southern California. The proposed route is a very scenic one and traverses the City of Palos Verdes and the community of Portuguese Bend, both of which are in the process of considerable residential development. There is no public carrier now operating along the proposed route between Palos Verdes and San Pedro.

Applicant proposes 6 zones with a base fare of 20 cents for the first zone and 5 cents for each additional zone. The one-way fare from San Pedro to Redondo Beach will be 45 cents, and 30 cents to Marineland from Redondo Beach or San Pedro. Saturday schedules will leave San Pedro at 9:45 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. and return from Redondo Beach at 10:30 A.M. and 5:45 P.M. The Sunday schedules will be 9:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., returning 10:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. The total one-way distance is approximately 18 miles. Applicants will use either Flexible Airport or a Ford Transit type bus. They are experienced in bus transportation.

The application is not protested except by the Pacific Greyhound Lines. It is the latter's position that service between the terminal points should be restricted because service is available on its Santa Monica-Long Beach Line. The latter route runs inland from Redondo Beach via Pacific Coast Highway through Torrance to a junction or transfer point at Harbor City (San Pedro Junction), where passengers transfer to or from a bus operating from said junction point to downtown San Pedro. Protestant's fare between San Pedro and Redondo Beach is 30 cents one way, 55 cents round trip,

or 30 rides for \$6.00 (20 cents). Sixteen schedules, between Redondo Beach and San Pedro, are operated daily from 5:30 A.M. to 10:45 P.M., except Sundays and holidays. Fourteen schedules are operated on Sundays and holidays. Protestant presented evidence (Exhibit No. 2) showing that for a seven-day period, June 23-29 inclusive, it transported 67 passengers southbound and 70 passengers northbound between Redondo Beach and San Pedro, or a daily average of 9.57 passengers southbound and 10 passengers northbound. On Saturday, June 26th, protestant carried 6 passengers southbound and 3 passengers northbound, and on Sunday, June 27th, there were 6 passengers southbound and 9 northbound. Protestant's running time, along an indirect route and requiring a transfer, is approximately 45 minutes, compared with applicant's proposed 35 minutes.

The characters of the two services are entirely different. One is more or less a sight-seeing type operation while protestant operates regular and frequent schedules along principal streets or highways. The routes, proposed fares, and frequency of service are not on a competitive basis. Applicant's proposed route is along a narrow and winding scenic road, 18 miles in length, whereas the most direct route between San Pedro and Redondo Beach is along major highways, a distance of only 12 miles. Under the circumstances it does not appear that applicant's proposed service is competitive with protestant's present operations.

Having considered the entire record we are of the opinion and find that public convenience and necessity require that applicants establish and operate a passenger stage service as herein-after authorized. The application will be granted subject to certain restrictions.

O R D E R

A public hearing having been held, the Commission being

fully advised in the premises and having found 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 V. M. McDonald and John L. Hansen, doing business as La Rambla and Channel Heights Bus Line, authorizing the establishment and operation of a passenger stage service, as that term is defined in Section 226 of the Public Utilities Code, for the transportation of persons between San Pedro and Redondo Beach, subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

Applicant shall not transport passengers locally between Redondo Beach and the intersection of Via del Puente and Palos Verdes Drive (south of the Plaza), both inclusive, nor between applicant's terminal in San Pedro and the intersection of Western Avenue and 25th Street (Palos Verdes Drive South), but not including said intersection.

(2) That in providing service pursuant to the certificate herein granted, there shall be compliance with the following service regulations:

- (a) Within thirty days after the effective date hereof, applicant shall file a written acceptance of the certificate herein granted.
- (b) Within sixty days after the effective date hereof, and upon not less than five days' notice to the Commission and the public, applicant shall establish the service herein authorized and file in triplicate and concurrently make 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, V. M. McDonald and John L. Hansen, doing business as La Rambla and Channel Heights Bus Line, shall conduct said passenger stage operations over and along the following-described route:

Beginning at 5th and Harbor Boulevard in San Pedro, California, south on Harbor Boulevard to 6th Street, west on 6th Street to Western Avenue, south on Western Avenue to 7th Street, west on 7th Street to Dodson Avenue, south on Dodson Avenue and Western Avenue to 25th Street, Palos Verdes Drive South, westerly

on Palos Verdes Drive South and Palos Verdes Drive West to Palos Verdes Drive, north on Palos Verdes Drive to Catalina Avenue to Torrance Boulevard, and return to point of beginning.

Applicant is authorized to turn its motor vehicles at termini and intermediate points, in either direction, at intersections of streets or by operating around a block contiguous to such intersections, or in accordance with local traffic rules.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17th day of August, 1954.

John E. Mitchell
President

Justin J. Greene

Kenneth J. Fitts

James Roggins

Commissioners