

ORIGINALDecision No. 56686

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY for authority)
 to discontinue agency at Colma, County) Application No. 39843
 of San Mateo, State of California, and)
 to maintain said station as a nonagency.)

Harold S. Lentz, for applicant.
William B. Hanna, for Henry Doelger Builder, Inc.,
 protestant.
R. E. Ligon, for The Order of Railroad Telegraphers,
 protestant.

O P I N I O N

By application filed February 24, 1958, Southern Pacific Company requests an order authorizing it to discontinue the agency at Colma, and to maintain said station as a Class A nonagency station. It is alleged that under present conditions both the business handled and the type of business conducted at said station do not, and in applicant's judgment will not, warrant the continued maintenance of an agency at said station and that the general public can as adequately and conveniently be served at the nearby agency of South San Francisco.

Public hearing was held in Colma on April 15, 1958, before Examiner Rowe, at which time evidence both oral and documentary was adduced and the matter duly submitted for decision.

This for some time has not been a station where passenger tickets have been sold, nor is it a train order station or a station for the handling of railway express or Western Union Company business. The accounting functions formerly handled by this agent were transferred to the South San Francisco agency early in 1957. The

telegraphers' union and Henry Doelger Builder, Inc., were the only protestants. The union offered no evidence but restricted its representation to cross-examining applicant's witnesses. Two witnesses appeared for the Doelger corporation. They expressed concern as to whether they would receive the same efficient service as to the spotting of incoming cars if the agency functions should be transferred to South San Francisco. The applicant witnesses testified that this function was now solely performed by the switching crews without assistance from the Colma agent. Consequently, moving agency functions to South San Francisco can have little effect upon the spotting of incoming freight cars.

The only lessening of service which will result is that less than carload freight of persons situated outside the corporate limits of Colma and all household goods and personal effects can no longer be picked up or delivered at the Colma station. The volume of such business has been small for the last several years. Seventy percent of the beyond limits freight has been destined to or received from Sharp Park. In traveling to South San Francisco to pick up or deliver such freight Sharp Park residents will be required to travel only about 2.2 miles farther. None of these Sharp Park residents appeared in protest.

Presently the Colma agent can perform all his agency functions which are to be transferred in approximately 15 to 30 minutes daily. By closing the agency applicant will save approximately \$5,000 annually without materially affecting service to the public in this area.

From the evidence of record ~~therefore~~ the Commission finds that public convenience and necessity no longer require the maintenance of an agency in Colma by applicant.

O R D E R

A public hearing having been held and the above matter having been duly submitted,

IT IS ORDERED that the Southern Pacific Company is authorized to discontinue its agency at Colma, San Mateo County, subject to the following conditions:

1. Southern Pacific Company shall continue to maintain said station as a Class A nonagency station.
2. Within ninety days after the effective date hereof, and on not less than ten days' notice to the Commission and to the public, applicant shall post notice of such discontinuance at the station, shall file, in duplicate, amendments to its tariffs showing the changes authorized herein, and shall make reference in such notice and tariffs to this decision as authority for the change.
3. Within thirty days after discontinuance of service as herein authorized, applicant shall notify the Commission thereof, and of compliance with the above conditions.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 13th day of May, 1958.

John E. Hatcher
President

Frank L. Linterman

William J. Doolan

Theodore J. Danner

Commissioners

Commissioner G. Lyn Fox, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.