

ORIGINALDecision No. 56929

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 Banning,
County of Riverside, State of California,
and to maintain said station as a non-
agency.

Application No. 39946

Randolph Karr, E. D. Yeomans, Harold S. Lentz
and James W. O'Brien, for applicant.
Kenneth B. Husby for the City of Banning,
Thomas B. Hunt for the Banning Chamber of
Commerce, and Isadore Singer for Fibre-Tex
Company, protestants.

O P I N I O N

By this application filed March 28, 1958, applicant requests an order authorizing it to discontinue its agency at Banning and to maintain said station as a nonagency station.

Public hearing was held in Banning on May 27, 1958, before Examiner Rowe, at which time evidence both oral and documentary was adduced and the matter was duly submitted for decision.

No passenger service is performed in Banning, although \$2,404 of tickets were sold there during 1957. All passenger trains stop at West Palm Springs which is approximately 16 miles distant by highway and 14.4 miles by rail. One train makes a flag stop at Beaumont, approximately 6 miles to the west. Banning residents wishing to purchase tickets may request them by mail, or purchase them at Beaumont or West Palm Springs upon the discontinuance of the Banning agency.

Carload freight shipments should not be adversely affected by closing this agency. Less-than-carload freight is presently picked

up and delivered by Pacific Motor Trucking Company. This service will in no way be adversely affected. Station deliveries and pickups of less-than-carload freight only will be terminated. In the future this service will be performed at Beaumont which is 6 miles to the west. The volume of this portion of the business is small, only 38 such shipments having been handled at Banning during 1957. The protestants offered testimony that in their opinion the loss of an agent would make the City of Banning less attractive for potential industrial plant location. They also expressed doubts that an agent located at Beaumont would have their interests at heart so much as would a local man. No testimony of protestants was directed to the effect of moving depot deliveries to Beaumont.

The Commission finds from the evidence of record that public convenience and necessity no longer requires the maintenance of an agency by applicant at Banning, California. As applicant indicated no intention of lessening any service at Banning other than depot deliveries, it will be required to maintain said station as a Class A nonagency. By discontinuing this agency an annual saving of approximately \$5,000 will be effected.

O R D E R

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

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That Southern Pacific Company is authorized to discontinue its agency at Banning, Riverside County, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Southern Pacific Company shall maintain said station in a Class A nonagency status.
- (b) Within ninety days after the effective date hereof, and on not less than ten days' notice to the Commission and to the public, Southern Pacific Company shall post a 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 changes.
- (c) Within thirty days after discontinuance of service as herein authorized, Southern Pacific Company shall notify this 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 1st day of July, 1958.

E. Lynn Fox
President
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
Herbert Jenner
Commissioners