

ORIGINALDecision No. 57104

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the application of)
 THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE)
 RAILWAY COMPANY, a corporation, and)
 RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY, INC., a)
 corporation, for authority to) Application No. 40093
 discontinue agency service at its)
 station at Oroshi, Tulare County,)
 State of California.)

Robert W. Walker and Richard K. Knowlton for
 applicants.

Ralph O. Norton for The Order of Railroad Telegraphers;
J. E. Greene for the Oroshi Foothill Citrus Associa-
 tion; Fred L. Jessup for the Oroshi Merchants Associa-
 tion; W. E. Wilson for Farmers Exchange No. 1;
J. Malcolm Crawford for the Tulare County Board of
 Supervisors; and Charles J. Denison for the Kenneth
 Lee Baird Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, protestants.

O P I N I O N

By this application filed May 15, 1958, The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company and Railway Express Agency, Incorporated, request an order authorizing them to discontinue their agencies at Oroshi, Tulare County, and to maintain said station as a nonagency station.

Public hearing was held in Oroshi on July 9, 1958 before Examiner Rowe at which time evidence both oral and documentary was adduced and the matter duly submitted for decision.

The railroad applicant has rendered no passenger service in this area for years and no tickets are sold there. By closing this agency this applicant will annually save approximately \$4,000. From the evidence of record it appears, and the Commission finds, that the present service to this area can be rendered efficiently by having the functions performed by the agency at Cutler. These stations of Oroshi and Cutler are approximately the same distance from the center of the town of Oroshi, or roughly one and one-half miles away.

The Orosi Foothill Citrus Association, the largest shipper of freight from Orosi, is presently located very near to this station. Service to it and to other carload shippers and receivers of freight will be substantially unimpaired. It does not appear unreasonable to expect the Association and other users in the immediate neighborhood to telephone the Cutler agent for service.

All less-than-carload freight is handled by the Santa Fe Transportation Company which makes pickups and deliveries within a three-mile radius of the Orosi post office. This service will not be affected by granting this application except that, in the future, collection of charges will be performed by the drivers of the truck. In the past this has been done by the agent at Orosi.

The average gross revenue received by the Orosi agent of Railway Express Agency, Inc., during 1957 was \$105 per month. It will not be feasible to employ the services of a local merchant to act as this applicant's agent because the Commission would average only about \$10.50 per month payable to such a merchant agent. The Commission finds that public convenience and necessity no longer require that either applicant maintain an agent at Orosi, Tulare County.

O R D E R

Public hearing having been held and the above matters having been duly submitted,

IT IS ORDERED that The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company and the Railway Express Agency, Inc., are authorized to discontinue their agencies at Orosi, Tulare County, subject to the following conditions:

- a. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company shall continue to handle freight in any quantity, carload or less, at the Orosi station.

- b. Applicants shall give not less than ten days' notice to the public of discontinuance of agency service by posting at the station.
- c. Within ninety days after the effective date hereof, applicants, upon not less than ten days' notice to this Commission and to the public, shall file, in duplicate, amendments to their tariffs showing the changes herein authorized and shall make reference in such tariff amendments to this decision as authority therefor.
- d. The authorization herein granted shall expire if not exercised within ninety days after the effective date hereof.
- e. Within thirty days after discontinuance of service as herein authorized, applicants shall notify this Commission in writing thereof and of compliance with the above conditions.

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

Dated at Los Angeles, California, this 5th day of August, 1958.

C. Lynn Fox
President

Robert L. ...

William ...

Thomas ...

Commissioners

Commissioner Peter E. Mitchell, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.