

ORIGINALDecision No. 57974

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 Laws, County
 of Inyo, State of California, and to
 maintain said station as a Class A
 nonagency station.

Application No. 40403

Randolph Kerr and Harold S. Lentz, for applicant.
Boyd A. Taylor, for Bishop Chamber of Commerce,
 protestant.
Willis Smith, for Huntley Industrial Minerals,
 Incorporated and for the City of Bishop,
 interested parties.

O P I N I O N

By application filed September 4, 1958, Southern Pacific Company requests an order authorizing it to discontinue its agency at Laws, Inyo County, and to maintain said station as a Class A nonagency station.

Public hearing was held in Bishop on December 10, 1958, before Examiner Rowe, at which time evidence both oral and documentary was adduced and the matter submitted for decision.

The railroad renders no passenger service and no tickets are sold at the station. Laws is the present terminus of a narrow gauge line which extends south to Keeler, a distance of roughly seventy miles. At approximately fifty four miles south of Laws the line touches the company's broad gauge line at Owenyo where the freight must be placed on regular freight cars for its ultimate destination. By closing this agency applicant will annually save approximately \$5,500.

The carload movement of freight will not be adversely affected by the requested change. The train serves this point, Laws, three days per week if there is freight to be carried. Pacific Motor Trucking Company does not serve Laws but will continue to operate to and from Bishop which is 5.1 miles distant. During the recent truck strike a substantial volume of less than carload freight moved to and from Laws, but in normal times applicant cannot be expected to successfully compete with trucks because of its short distance operation and especially because transshipment is required at Owenyo.

Protestant Bishop Chamber of Commerce pointed to the value of the line as a tourist attraction. It was also asserted that the annual trip for railroad enthusiasts which was discontinued because of hazards to the fans, should be reinstated. Upon full consideration of the record in this proceeding, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that public convenience and necessity no longer require the service of an agent at Laws.

O R D E R

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

IT IS ORDERED:

(1) That Southern Pacific Company is authorized to discontinue its agency at Laws, Inyo County, subject to the following conditions:

- a. Southern Pacific Company shall maintain said station in a Class A nonagency status.
- b. Southern Pacific Company shall give not less than ten days' notice to the public of discontinuance of agency service by posting notice thereof at the station.

- c. Within ninety days after the effective date hereof, Southern Pacific Company, upon not less than ten days' notice to this Commission and to the public, shall file in duplicate amendments to its tariffs showing the changes herein authorized and shall make reference in such tariff amendments and said notice 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, applicant Southern Pacific Company shall notify this Commission in writing 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 3rd day of February, 1959.

E. Leo Fox
 President

J. E. [unclear]

[unclear]

Theodore J. [unclear]

Commissioners