

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 65977

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application)
of JACK A. ROESCH, doing business)
as WESTERN TRAIL STAGES, to cur-)
tail service between San Bernar-)
dino, Crestline, Lake Arrowhead)
and Big Bear Lake.)

Application No. 45305
Filed April 1, 1963

Alden Reid, for applicant.
Fred G. Ballenger, for the Commission staff.

O P I N I O N

A public hearing in this matter was held in San Bernardino, on August 7, 1963, before Examiner Chiesa. Notices of hearing were posted in buses used in the mountain area service and at applicant's terminals. Notices were mailed to the principal Chambers of Commerce in the area.

Evidence, oral and documentary, having been adduced, the matter was submitted for decision.

Applicant seeks authority to curtail his present bus schedule between San Bernardino and the San Bernardino mountain resorts. He now operates one round trip daily on week days and two such trips on Saturday, all year. He proposes to operate one round trip daily only from approximately June 15 (depending on the start of school vacation) to September 30.

As justification for reducing the service, applicant alleges that revenues have decreased to such an extent that the line has been operating at a loss; that bus travel has declined due to the construction of the City Creek Highway and because the past several drought years have adversely affected winter and summer mountain travel; that in order to serve the principal mountain resorts applicant's running time, one-way, is approximately two and one-half hours, whereas private cars can cover the same route in less than half that time.

The application is not protested.

The evidence shows that for the year ending December 31, 1962, applicant's total revenue from this operation was \$12,823.54 and his total expenses were \$21,010.45 or a loss of \$8,187.45. For the first six months of 1963, the corresponding figures were: Revenue \$3,807.26; Expense \$7,995.32; and Net Loss \$4,188.06. He has estimated results of operation for the projected period of June 15 to September 30, 1964, to be as follows: Revenue \$4,000.00; Expense \$4,546.94; Net Loss \$546.94.

From January 1 to June 15, 1962, applicant carried a total of 2,040 passengers and during the same period this year the total number of passengers was 1,641. Applicant testified that the number of summer time passengers has also been decreasing.

The Commission staff representative helped develop the record. It appears that applicant is willing to continue the service as herein proposed because his principal place of

business is in the San Bernardino area (he also operates a certified service to airports and Dodger Stadium) and because the line has been operated for many years and some need exists for it particularly in summer. Applicant believes that he can retain a small supplementary mail contract during his summer operation. The principal mail contracts which are held by other carriers, will not be affected. Applicant desires to retain his alternate route via Lucerne Valley and Victorville in the event that the regular route is closed because of fire or flood-damaged roads.

Based upon the evidence the Commission finds that public convenience and necessity no longer require that applicant's passenger stage service between San Bernardino and the San Bernardino mountain resorts be continued between the first day of October and approximately the fifteenth day of June each year.

The application will be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Commencing with the first day of October, 1963, to and including June 15, 1964, and during said period each year thereafter, on not less than ten days' notice to the Commission and to the public, Jack A. Roesch may discontinue passenger stage service between San Bernardino and the San Bernardino

mountain resorts. However, applicant may begin said service prior to June 15 of any year to coincide with the commencement of school summer vacation.

2. Within sixty days after the effective date hereof and on not less than five days' notice to the Commission and to the public, applicant shall amend his tariffs and timetables, now on file with this Commission, to reflect the authority herein granted.

The effective date of this order shall be the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 10th day of September, 1963.

William L. Bennett
President

Richard D. Hill

Everett A. Ray

George T. Traver

Frederick B. Holhoff
Commissioners