

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 69705

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, for)
authority to discontinue agency)
service at its station at Lamanda)
Park, County of Los Angeles, State)
of California, and to remove its)
station building therefrom.)

Application No. 47591

John J. Balluff and Henry M. Moffat, by Henry M. Moffat, for applicant.
Keith A. Vose, for Transportation-Communications Employees Union, protestant.
Fred Metheny, for the City of Pasadena; George Knox Roth, for Constructive Civic Committee; interested parties.
James R. Ritchie, for the Commission staff.

O P I N I O N

By this application The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company (Santa Fe) seeks authority to discontinue agency service at Lamanda Park, Los Angeles County, and to remove the Lamanda Park station building.

Public hearing of the application was held before Examiner Bishop at Pasadena on July 7, 1965. Evidence was presented by applicant through a trainmaster, a special accountant and the division superintendent of Santa Fe Trail Transportation Company.^{1/}

Representatives of Transportation-Communication Employees Union and the Commission's Transportation Division staff assisted in the development of the record.

The Lamanda Park station is located within the City of Pasadena, near the easterly limits of that community. The nearest

^{1/} Santa Fe Trail Transportation Company, a highway common carrier, is a subsidiary of applicant.

agency station of applicant east of Lamanda Park is located at Arcadia, a distance of 5.4 miles, while the main Pasadena station of Sante Fe is 3.6 miles west of Lamanda Park.

The office at Lamanda Park is staffed by a single employee, the agent, whose hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time). The station is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and certain designated holidays. No tickets are sold at Lamanda Park and no passenger trains stop there. In the event the application is granted passenger patrons will continue, as at present, to purchase their tickets at Pasadena or Arcadia and to board Santa Fe trains at Pasadena or other convenient points.^{2/}

At Lamanda Park there are a public team track and several industrial spur tracks. If the application is granted there will be no change in these facilities, the trainmaster testified, and shippers and receivers using them will continue to receive the train service which they now enjoy. It is proposed to transact all Lamanda Park business through the Pasadena station.

At the latter office there are 29 employees, including three who are authorized to sign bills of lading. The Pasadena office is open from 6:00 a.m. to 1:15 a.m. daily, including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Lamanda Park area and the Pasadena station, the trainmaster stated, are on the same telephone exchange, so that no additional charges will be incurred by Lamanda Park patrons in transacting business by telephone with the Pasadena station force.

Carload shippers may take their bills of lading to the Pasadena station, or, if they so desire, may telephone the agent

^{2/} None of applicant's passenger trains stop at Arcadia.

there, who will send out an employee to pick up the documents at the shipper's place of business. On request, Santa Fe will erect a waybill box at the Lamanda Park siding, in which shippers may place bills of lading. The latter will be picked up by the conductor of the local freight train when he picks up the loaded freight car. Lamanda Park consignees of carload shipments, under the proposal herein, will be notified of the arrival of such shipments by the Pasadena agent. Inspection of damaged shipments will be made by an employee from the Pasadena office.

Less-than-carload rail shipments originating or terminating at Lamanda Park are currently picked up or delivered by trucks of Santa Fe Trail Transportation Company. Under this arrangement, the division superintendent of that company testified, door-to-door service is accorded patrons five days per week. Requests for pick up service are placed with the Pasadena agent. Thus there will be no change in the placing of requests for, or in the handling of, less-than-carload shipments if the application is granted.

According to the trainmaster, the duties now performed by the agent at Lamanda Park can be readily absorbed by the present Pasadena station force. In the event the application is granted, he also stated, the Lamanda Park agent will be transferred to another agency for which his seniority and schedule qualify him.

Exhibits presented by the accounting witness indicate that closing of the agency at Lamanda Park would result in estimated annual savings of approximately \$7,000 in wages and payroll costs. Other anticipated savings in operating expenses were not measured. These included such items as utilities, supplies, and maintenance costs and taxes on the station building, which would be dismantled.

No shippers or other patrons appeared in opposition to the granting of the application. The aforesaid employees' union appeared as a protestant. Its representative offered no evidence in support of its position, confining his participation to examination of applicant's witnesses.

The Commission finds that:

1. The duties assigned to applicant's agent at Lamanda Park can be assumed and performed satisfactorily by the carrier's staff at the Pasadena station, without impairment of the quality of service now accorded applicant's Lamanda Park patrons.

2. Public convenience and necessity no longer require the maintenance by applicant of an agency at Lamanda Park.

3. After termination of the agency at Lamanda Park, the station building there will not be needed in public service.

The Commission concludes that the application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company is authorized to discontinue its agency at Lamanda Park, Los Angeles County, subject to the following conditions:

- a. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company shall maintain said station in a nonagency status for the receipt or delivery of freight in any quantity, carloads or less.
- b. Within one hundred twenty days after the effective date hereof and not less than ten days prior to the discontinuance of the agency at Lamanda Park, Los Angeles County, applicant shall post a notice of such discontinuance at the station and, within one hundred twenty days after the effective date hereof and on not less than ten days' notice to the Commission and to the public, applicant shall file

in duplicate amendments to its tariffs showing the change authorized herein and shall make reference in such notice and tariffs to this decision as authority for the change. In no event shall the agent be removed, pursuant to the authority hereinabove granted, earlier than the effective date of the tariff filings required hereunder.

c. Within thirty days after discontinuance of service as herein authorized, applicant shall, in writing, notify this Commission thereof and of compliance with the above conditions.

2. After the authority granted by paragraph 1 of this order has been exercised and the conditions thereof complied with, applicant may remove its station building at Lamanda Park.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 21st day of SEPTEMBER, 1965.

Frederick B. Halbach
President
George T. Brewer
Secretary
William D. Bennett
Commissioners