

**ORIGINAL**

Decision No. 72015

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 )  
Ivanhoe, County of Tulare, State of )  
California, and to abandon and )  
remove the station building, plat- )  
forms and appurtenances. )

Application No. 48844  
(Filed October 6, 1966)

Harold S. Lentz and L. W. Telford, for applicant.  
Meryl Chatten and Earl W. Johnston, for Ivanhoe  
Chamber of Commerce; Ted Bielefeldt, for  
Klink-Citrus Association; Lawrence Lakey, for  
Ivanhoe Public Utility District and Carl E.  
Booth, for Tulare County Board of Supervisors;  
protestants.  
Jim Young, for Ivanhoe Citrus Association, and  
Pete Giotta, in propria persona, interested  
parties.  
Kenneth G. Soderlund, for the Commission staff.

O P I N I O N

By this application, Southern Pacific Company requests authority to discontinue its agency at Ivanhoe, to abandon and remove the station building, platforms and appurtenances at said station and to maintain said station as a Class A nonagency station.

A duly noticed public hearing was held before Examiner O'Leary at Ivanhoe on December 13, 1966, and the matter was submitted.

Ivanhoe is located on the Southern Pacific Company's San Joaquin Division, Exeter Branch, approximately 14 miles south of Dinuba.

The evidence adduced discloses that the station at Ivanhoe is staffed by a single employee, the local agent, and that his customer service work can be performed in approximately

A. 48844 ds

one hour per day. The agent was relieved of most of his clerical duties approximately seven years ago when a regional billing office was established at Fresno. The station is presently open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Under the proposal to close the Ivanhoe agency, some of the agent's duties will be assumed by the agent at Dinuba and some by the conductor of the local freight train. Toll-free telephone service will be afforded Ivanhoe patrons for the purpose of contacting the Dinuba agent. The station at Dinuba is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Both stations are closed one hour a day for lunch.

The volume of business handled at the Ivanhoe station for the Years 1964, 1965 and the first eight months of 1966 was as follows:

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966*</u>
Carloads:			
Originated	781	779	827
Terminated	12	3	9

\* January through August

All originating cars consisted of shipments of fruits or vegetables from three shippers. During this period, no damage inspections have been requested. Less-than-carload shipments are handled by Pacific Motor Trucking Co., a subsidiary of Southern Pacific Company. No change is contemplated in this service. Western Union, United States mail, Railway Express and passenger tickets are not handled at Ivanhoe.

Applicant estimates that elimination of the agency will result in an annual net savings of \$7,500. A senior assistant engineer of the railroad testified that the station building needs

painting and the platform should be rebuilt. The cost of painting the station and rebuilding the platform is estimated at \$750.

The protests to the granting of the application were based upon a desire to maintain the agency in the community and a fear that its removal would result in a deterioration in the quality of service. The superintendent of the San Joaquin division testified that the railroad has found from experience that the removal of an agent does not impair the quality of service. The record discloses that if the agency is closed, the quality of service will not differ materially from that now afforded.

The Commission finds that:

1. Public convenience and necessity no longer require the maintenance by Southern Pacific Company of an agency at Ivanhoe.
2. After the termination of the agency at Ivanhoe, the station building, platforms and appurtenances will not be needed in public service.

The Commission concludes that the application should be granted.

#### ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Southern Pacific Company is authorized to discontinue its agency at Ivanhoe, Tulare County, subject to the following conditions:
  - (a) Southern Pacific 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 Ivanhoe, Southern Pacific Company

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, Southern Pacific Company 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 changes. 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, Southern Pacific Company may remove its station building, platforms and appurtenances at Ivanhoe.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 1967.

[Signature]  
President  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
Commissioners