

**ORIGINAL**

Decision No. 72561

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 Dos Palos, County of Merced, )  
State of California, and to )  
abandon and remove the station )  
building, platforms and )  
appurtenances. )

Application No. 49135  
(Filed February 8, 1967)

Harold S. Lentz and L. W. Telford, for applicant.  
Willard B. Treadwell, for Board of Supervisors,  
Merced County, protestant.  
Kenneth C. Soderlund, for the Commission staff.

O P I N I O N

Applicant requests authority to discontinue its agency at Dos Palos, County of Merced, and abandon and remove the station building, platforms and appurtenances, and to maintain the station as a Class B nonagency station.

A public hearing was held before Examiner Porter at Dos Palos on March 14, 1967, and the matter submitted.

Evidence was presented that it was not applicant's intention to remove the exterior uncovered portion of the platform on the southeasterly end of the building and an end unloading ramp. Applicant moved to amend the application in accordance with this evidence and said motion was granted. The average annual maintenance cost of the building is \$500; also, the building is in need of painting, which will cost in the vicinity of \$700.

Witnesses for the applicant testified that if the agency station at Dos Palos was discontinued shippers could telephone the agent at Firebaugh (approximately fourteen miles from Dos Palos)

collect (call would be automatically accepted and the charge reversed), which would be a saving to shippers as they now call the Dos Palos agent at their expense. Service from Firebaugh will be better as the agent at Firebaugh has cars under his control which could be used to fill a customer's order. Firebaugh has more lines of communication to reach other stations to secure cars and can contact the engineer of a train to ascertain its location or to deliver instructions. There is more personnel available at Firebaugh. Exhibit 8 shows an estimated net annual savings of \$8,355 if Dos Palos is operated as a nonagency station.

Protestant argued that the closing of the station at Dos Palos would be a loss to the economy of the area and a loss of service to the people.

After consideration of all the evidence, the Commission finds that all agency functions can be performed by the agency at Firebaugh and that public convenience and necessity no longer require the maintenance by Southern Pacific Company of an agency at Dos Palos. It is also found that public convenience and necessity no longer require the maintenance of the station buildings. Further, if Dos Palos is operated as a nonagency station, the net annual saving of \$8,355 will result to Southern Pacific Company.

The relief requested will be authorized.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Southern Pacific Company is authorized to discontinue the agency at Dos Palos, California, subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Southern Pacific Company shall maintain said station in a Class B nonagency status.

- b. Within ninety days after the effective date hereof and on not less than ten days prior to the discontinuance of the agency at Dos Palos, Southern Pacific Company shall post a notice of such discontinuance at the station and, within ninety 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, Southern Pacific Company shall notify this Commission in writing thereof and of compliance with the above conditions.
- d. Within six months after discontinuance of service as herein authorized, Southern Pacific Company shall remove the station building and shall notify this Commission in writing thereof and of compliance with this order.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 6th day of JUNE, 1967.

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