

**ORIGINAL**Decision No. 72978

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of THE PACIFIC TELEPHONE  
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY for authority  
to establish the Traver special rate  
area within the Kingsburg exchange. }

Application No. 49454  
(Filed June 12, 1967)

OPINION AND ORDER

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company has requested authority to establish the Traver Special Rate Area within the Kingsburg Exchange, Tulare County, in accordance with Exhibits A and B of the application, to furnish urban grades of service at rates set forth in Exhibit C of the application and shown below, to withdraw suburban service within the special rate area, and to offer urban service outside the base rate area and the special rate area according to the rules of paragraph V of the application. A summary of present rates and proposed SRA rates follows:

	Rate Per Month	
	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<u>Business</u>		
1-Party	\$ 5.80*	\$ 6.80
2-Party	4.50*	5.20
Semi-Public	3.00*	4.00
PBX Trunk		
Flat Rate - each	8.50*	9.50
Suburban		
Farmer Line	4.45	-
	1.15	1.35#
<u>Residence</u>		
1-Party	3.70*	4.70
2-Party	3.00*	3.70
4-Party	2.45*	2.95
Suburban		
Farmer Line	2.95	-
	.70	.90#

\* Plus suburban mileage charges on urban services.

# Applicable to service connecting at the special rate area.

The Commission staff has reviewed the application and has made a field inspection of the area. The staff report, wherein it recommends that the application be granted, is made a part of the record as Exhibit No. 1.

The Kingsburg Telephone Company, a farmer line with about 800 member-subscribers, has a number of customers on Roads Nos. 32 and 40 about one-half mile south of Avenue 384, the division line generally agreed upon by the farmer line and the applicant, and has one customer at Road No. 60, Avenue 368 on 8-party farmer line service. The applicant has been serving the Traver area about 20 years. The farmer line management expressed an interest in retention of farmer line rates and in securing service as proposed for the special rate area, and otherwise has no objection to the establishment of the Traver Special Rate Area.

Customers in the Traver Special Rate Area are dependent upon agricultural work and agricultural processing for their livelihood and rely heavily upon telephone service for job requests and work information. Calls from farm operators, unions and processing plant, in season, must be received promptly if the farm laborer is to have gainful employment. This is the basic reason for the need for better telephone service. The low rates proposed are essential for these customers.

The Traver Area is in a low income, essentially agricultural area. No new businesses or growth in population appears imminent. Community activity, however, reveals that about 20 homes are planned for new construction, a water supply and distribution system is planned for installation and a gas domestic use and heating distribution system is planned, contingent upon State and Federal Governmental assistance. Some growth may be expected as the alkaline Southeastern portion of the Kingsburg Exchange Area is leached out and made productive.

To facilitate ex parte treatment the company has notified all subscribers in the area by letter, of its intention to request authorization "without public hearing". The letter included proposed rates and requested return of comments by June 26, 1967. Of the 51 letters, 16 replies were received, all of which were favorable.

The special rate area covers approximately 0.3 square miles and includes 12 business establishments and approximately 100 homes. There are three churches and one school in the area.

As of September, 1966, applicant furnished 57 suburban residence services, two suburban business services, two urban residence services and three urban business services within the proposed special rate area.

Applicant estimates that annual revenues would increase by about \$200 after normal regrading. It appears that granting the application will result in improved service in the public interest; therefore,

The Commission finds that a public hearing is not necessary and that such increases in rates and charges as will result are justified and that, for the future, present rates, insofar as they differ from those herein prescribed, would be unjust and unreasonable upon the establishment of the Traver Special Rate Area.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company is authorized to establish the Traver Special Rate Area as requested in the application.
2. After the effective date of this order, applicant is authorized to file with this Commission, in conformity with General Order No. 96-A, exchange maps revised to show the Traver Special Rate Area within the Kingsburg Exchange with a boundary substantially as shown in Exhibits A and B attached to the application.

A. 49454 aw/lm

3. Applicant is authorized to file, in conformity with General Order No. 96-A, rates for service within the said special rate area, as set forth in Exhibit C attached to the application and rules, as set forth in paragraph V of the application, and after not less than five days' notice to the Commission and to the public, to make said rates effective for service coincident with establishment of the said special rate area.

4. Applicant is authorized to withdraw suburban telephone service within the Traver Special Rate Area coincident with establishment of said special rate area.

5. Applicant will continue to survey and report to this Commission development and growth in the Traver area at two-year intervals for the next three such intervals. When substantial growth occurs within the Traver area consideration should be given to base rate area treatment.

6. The authorization to establish said special rate area granted herein, will expire unless exercised within one year of the effective date of this order.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California  
this 29<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST, 1967.

[Signature]  
President  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
William Symons Jr.  
[Signature]  
Commissioners