

**ORIGINAL**

Decision No. 73480

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application  
of GOLDEN WEST TELEPHONE COMPANY,  
a California corporation; for  
authority to (a) withdraw the  
tariffs applicable to message toll  
telephone service between the  
Hoopa and Willow Creek Exchanges  
and (b) to substitute therefor  
extended service with no changes  
in the tariffs applicable to  
exchange service in these two  
exchanges.

Application No. 49662  
(Filed September 6, 1967)

OPINION AND ORDER

Golden West Telephone Company (hereafter referred to as "Applicant") requests the Commission to authorize the following on an ex parte basis:

1. Establishment of extended area telephone service between the Hoopa and Willow Creek exchanges with no changes in exchange service rates.
2. Discontinuance of the offering of message toll telephone service between the Hoopa and Willow Creek exchanges.

The Commission staff reviewed the application and made a field inspection of the area. The staff report is received in evidence as Exhibit No. 1.

Applicant states that the removal of the Hoopa-Willow Creek toll traffic from the microwave system will increase the usability of such system for other traffic and that such relief is now needed. Applicant also states that the facilities for extended area service between Hoopa and Willow Creek can be established promptly.

Applicant, in addition to other areas, furnishes telephone service along Highway 299 which extends from Redding to Eureka. This service area is generally about four miles wide along Highway 299 and extends for a distance of about 55 highway miles in a northwesterly direction from Weaverville. Other than in Weaverville the entire service area is sparsely developed. In the most northwesterly portion are the two communities of Hoopa and Willow Creek situated about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  toll rate miles apart. Applicant states that on June 30, 1967 there were 365 main stations in the Hoopa exchange and 506 main stations in the Willow Creek exchange. The initial period message toll rate is 10¢ for calls between Hoopa and Willow Creek exchanges. Toll calls between Hoopa and Willow Creek must be transmitted via open-wire carrier and microwave to Weaverville and back, a total transmission path length of over 100 miles.

Exhibit B attached to the application summarizes the results of applicant's study of the cost of substituting extended service for toll service between Hoopa and Willow Creek exchanges. The exhibit shows that the annual revenue effects of this change are a gain of \$68.

Applicant states that the business and residence customers of the two exchanges have much in common; that the areas are served by the same high school; that many residents of Willow Creek are employed by the Department of Indian Affairs and by the logging business in Hoopa; that the two communities are within the same valley and subject to exposure to the same emergencies such as flood and forest fire; that Willow Creek has a larger and more diversified group of business establishments than Hoopa so that the Hoopa people consider Willow Creek as their nearest shopping location for services

not available in Hoopa and that travel between Hoopa and Redding or Eureka passes through Willow Creek and thus contributes to the community of interest between the people of the two areas.

Because of the negligible net effects on the company's operations resulting from the proposal of the applicant, no increase in exchange rates is requested. Toll charges to customers in these two exchanges will be reduced by an estimated \$3,443 annually.

It appears that granting the application will result in improved service in the public interest at no increase in rates or charges; therefore, the Commission finds that a public hearing is not necessary and that the company's application should be granted.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Golden West Telephone Company is authorized to introduce extended service between the Hoopa and Willow Creek exchanges.
2. Applicant is authorized to discontinue the offering of message toll telephone service between the Hoopa and Willow Creek exchanges.
3. Applicant is authorized to file, in conformity with General Order No. 96-A, tariffs revised to reflect the authorization set forth in Ordering Paragraphs 1 and 2 above and after not less than five days' notice to the Commission and to the public to make said revised tariffs effective for extended service between Hoopa and Willow Creek exchanges coincident with establishment of said service.

4. The authorization to establish said extended service will expire unless exercised within six months 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 19th day of DECEMBER, 1967.

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