

Decision No. 74231

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application of)
SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY for authority)
to relocate certain facilities, to)
discontinue and abandon existing)
station buildings and other facilities)
and to discontinue passenger agency)
service at Richmond, Milepost 15.0,)
Contra Costa County, California.)

Application No. 50129
(Filed April 1, 1968)

By Application No. 47988 Southern Pacific Company sought authority to relocate freight facilities and to discontinue passenger service at Richmond. By Decision No. 70982 the Commission granted the requested authority as to relocation of the freight facilities but denied it insofar as discontinuance of the passenger service was concerned. The Commission granted rehearing. Decision No. 72758 on rehearing affirmed Decision No. 70982. It was issued July 18, 1967. The authority granted by both decisions to relocate freight facilities has not been exercised.

By the present application Southern Pacific Company seeks the same authority which it sought in Application No. 47988, with the exception that the elimination of Richmond as a station stop is not requested. The application was listed on the Commission's Daily Calendar of April 2, 1968. Notice of the application has been given to various parties thought to be interested and no protests have been received.

In the various hearings on Application No. 47988 the solution here sought was advocated by certain witnesses representing agencies of the City of Richmond, since it will still be possible for passengers to board and leave trains there.

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The change should remove most, if not all, of the opposition that manifested itself in Application No. 47988. The Bay Area Rapid Transit District supported both applications. The City of Richmond opposed Application No. 47988 but is supporting Application No. 50129. The City's support is evidenced by its Resolution No. 9359 adopted on February 5, 1968, a copy of which is attached to the application as Exhibit B.

The Commission authorized the relocation of the freight facilities twice in Application No. 47988 relying on an overwhelming preponderance of the evidence. No more need be said about this phase of the present application.

The instant proposal preserves all the conveniences of the present location of the Richmond passenger station. One of the conveniences is that this is one of few (if, indeed, there are any other) places where a BART station will be in the immediate neighborhood of a Southern Pacific station. Richmond is the most convenient station for Marin County people who have access over the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. Richmond is also the most convenient station for a section of Contra Costa County housing a large population.

Applicant proposes to withdraw its passenger agency from Richmond. Toll free telephone service to applicant's Berkeley station will be provided. Applicant presently mails many tickets and doubtless will continue to do so.

In the Commission's opinion the present proposal is free from most of the objections found in Application No. 47988 and should be granted.

The Commission finds that:

1. Southern Pacific Company is a rail common carrier.
2. Southern Pacific Company operates agency services for both passengers and freight at Richmond.
3. Public convenience and necessity require and in the future will continue to require the continuance of the freight agency service now offered at 510 Castro Street in Richmond.
4. Public convenience and necessity require and in the future will continue to require that Southern Pacific Company continue its station stop at Richmond and provide a shelter to protect waiting and disembarking passengers at or near the present location of its present passenger station located at approximately Milepost 15.0.
5. Public convenience and necessity no longer require that passenger agency service be rendered by Southern Pacific Company at Richmond.
6. The proposed substitute agency service to be rendered by Southern Pacific Company through its station at Berkeley will reasonably meet the needs of that section of the public presently served by the Richmond passenger agency.
7. The proposed substitute team track and warehouse facilities near Florida Avenue and the continuance of the freight agency service at 510 Castro Street will be as convenient as the present freight facilities near the intersection of 16th Street and MacDonald Avenue (Milepost 15.0).
8. A public hearing is not necessary.

The Commission concludes that the application should be granted as provided by the following order.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Within six months after the effective date of this order and on thirty days' notice to the Commission and the public, Southern Pacific Company may discontinue its passenger agency service in Richmond.
2. Within six months after the effective date of this order and on not less than thirty days' notice to the Commission and the public, Southern Pacific Company may remove the tracks and buildings now located on the triangular parcel of property located at 16th Street and MacDonald Avenue. Milepost 15.0, subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter provided.
3. Southern Pacific Company shall relocate its freight facilities to the location in the vicinity of Florida Avenue indicated on Exhibit A to the application.
4. Southern Pacific Company shall continue to maintain a station stop for passengers in Richmond at its Milepost No. 15.0 (16th Street and MacDonald Avenue) and shall replace its present passenger station with an adequate shelter for boarding and detraining passengers. Applicant shall not remove its present passenger station building until contracts have been executed for the replacement shelter. Construction of such shelter shall begin within thirty days after the removal of the present station building has been accomplished.

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5. Southern Pacific Company shall continue to render freight agency service from its present location at 510 Castro Street in Richmond.

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

Dated at Los Angeles, California, this 11th
day of JUNE, 1968.

[Signature]
President

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
Commissioners

Commissioner William M. Bennett, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.