

ORIGINALDecision No. 75681

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application)
 of THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA)
 FE RAILWAY COMPANY, a corporation,)
 for authority to discontinue)
 agency service at their station at)
 Tulare, County of Tulare, State of)
 California.)

Application No. 50768
 (Filed December 23, 1968)

John J. Schimmenti, for applicant.
David Ogden, for Tulare County Board of Supervisors;
Howard F. Boston, for City of Tulare; James R.
Clark and E. K. Hicks, for Transportation-Commun-
 ication Employees Union; and Norman J. Repanich,
 for Greater Tulare Chamber of Commerce, protestants.
M. E. Getchel, for the Commission staff.

O P I N I O N

By this application, The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company requests authority to discontinue its agency service at Tulare, County of Tulare.

A duly noticed public hearing was held before Examiner O'Leary at Tulare on March 12, 1969 and the matter was submitted. Evidence in support of the application was presented by four witnesses for applicant. Three protestants presented statements in opposition to the application. Protestants and a member of the Commission's staff participated in the development of the record through cross-examination of applicant's witnesses.

The evidence adduced discloses that the station at Tulare is staffed by a single employee who is on duty from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. five days a week. The station is closed one hour a day for lunch.

Under the proposal to close the Tulare agency the services presently available through the agent will be available through applicant's agency station at Corcoran, with the exception of passenger ticket sales. Passenger tickets will be available at applicant's agency station at Hanford. Corcoran and Hanford are located approximately fourteen and twenty miles from Tulare, respectively. Toll-free telephone service will be afforded Tulare patrons for the purpose of contacting the Corcoran and Hanford stations. The station at Corcoran is open from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. seven days a week and the station at Hanford is open from 7:45 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. seven days a week. The applicant will furnish a box with a lock where the shippers can place the bills of lading which will be signed by the conductor of the train picking up the freight cars. The shippers' copies will be left in the box for later pickup by them.

The volume of business handled at the Tulare station for the years 1966, 1967 and the first nine months of 1968 was as follows:

	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968*</u>
Carload Shipments:			
Originated	90	20	13
Terminated	147	111	45
Less-Than-Carload Shipments:			
Originated	10	10	8
Terminated	19	11	6

*January through September.

No change in train schedules is contemplated should the application be granted. Santa Fe Trail Transportation Company, a subsidiary of applicant, presently serves Tulare one day per week,

from Visalia; within the very near future the service will be from Fresno rather than Visalia. Western Union and passenger service, other than the sale of passenger tickets, are not provided by applicant at Tulare.

Applicant estimates that elimination of the agency will result in annual savings in excess of \$8,000.

The statements presented by three of the protestants in opposition to the application were based upon the premise that the continuation of the agency would be beneficial to the economic growth of the community and a fear that its removal would result in a deterioration in the quality of service. No evidence in support of the statements was presented.

After consideration the Commission finds that public convenience and necessity no longer require the maintenance by The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company of an agency at Tulare and concludes that the application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company is authorized to discontinue its agency at Tulare, Tulare County, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway 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 Tulare, Tulare County, The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway 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,

