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Decision No. 78635

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
GOLDEN WEST AIRLINES, INC., for a
Certificate of Public Convenience
and Necessity to provide passenger
air carrier service between the
points of San Francisco, San Jose,
and Palo Alto.

Application No. 52104
(Filed February 18, 1971)

ORDER DENYING SPECIAL TEMPORARY
SUSPENSION OF PASSENGER AIR CARRIER SERVICE

By Decision No. 77612, dated August 13, 1970, Golden West Airlines, Inc. (Golden West) was issued a temporary certificate of public convenience and necessity to operate as a passenger air carrier between San Jose and San Francisco via Palo Alto.

By this petition Golden West requests a ninety-day special temporary suspension of service to Palo Alto pursuant to Section 2766 of the Public Utilities Code. Golden West alleges that the facilities at Palo Alto air terminal are inadequate. Petitioner also requests authority for an additional ninety-day period of suspension to follow the first one if the facilities are not completed or repaired at the time the first period ends.

Golden West states that there is inadequate taxi space at the airport. As a result it must bus passengers between the terminal building and the aircraft. This causes additional expense for petitioner and inconvenience to the public, with the further result that petitioner has not been able to promote its service to the point that the costs of operating the facilities are covered.

A protest has been filed by Santa Clara County, which owns and operates the Palo Alto Air Terminal. The county asserts that Golden West's allegations are incorrect, and that it has offered many times to meet with Golden West to discuss any inconveniences at the airport. The county's protest further states that none of these offers have been accepted. Finally, the protest states that Golden West is the sole passenger air carrier providing service to Palo Alto at the present time, and that suspension of its operations would leave the community without service.

In view of the protest filed by Santa Clara County, the petition for special suspension will be denied, and a public hearing will be held. Pending completion of the hearing, the parties are urged to commence negotiations in order to settle this matter.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Golden West Airlines, Inc.'s petition to suspend passenger air carrier service to Palo Alto as part of its service between San Francisco and San Jose for a period of ninety days is denied.

2. A public hearing will be scheduled in this matter.

The effective date of this order shall be the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 4th day of MAY, 1971.

[Signature]
Chairman
William [Signature]
[Signature]
Vernon L. Slinger
[Signature]
Commissioners