

Decision No. 78690

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
SOUTHERN PACIFIC TRANSPORTATION COMPANY
for authority to discontinue agency and
to remove station building and
appurtenances from public service at
Santa Ana, County of Orange, State of
California.

Application No. 52258

(Filed October 21, 1970)

Harold S. Lentz, Attorney at Law,
for applicant.

Ralph D. Stern, Attorney at Law,
for Supervisor Robert W. Battin,
Chairman, Orange County Board of
Supervisors, interested party.

Robert C. Labbe, for the Commission
staff.

O P I N I O N

Southern Pacific Transportation Company seeks authority to discontinue its agency at Santa Ana, Orange County, California, to remove the station building and appurtenances from public service and thereafter maintain said station as a nonagency station. Applicant alleges that under present conditions both the business handled and the type of business conducted at said station do not warrant continued maintenance of an agency at Santa Ana; that the general public can be adequately and conveniently served at the agency station of Anaheim; and that public convenience and necessity can best be served by discontinuing this agency at Santa Ana.

A public hearing was held at Santa Ana, California, on March 18, 1971, before Examiner DeWolf and the matter was submitted.

Notice of hearing was posted and published as required by the Commission rules and proof thereof filed as Exhibits 1 and 2.

Protests were filed but were withdrawn by letters prior to hearing. The Board of Supervisors of Orange County withdrew its objections.

An interested party appeared and testified that he did not oppose the closing of the station but that full opportunity should be given to the public in Santa Ana to appear at a public hearing.

Four employee witnesses for applicant familiar with the Santa Ana station testified generally that the station in question is located in the business section of Santa Ana several blocks from the railroad tracks and that under present conditions the business handled at the station does not warrant continued maintenance of the agency; that the general public can be adequately and conveniently served through the agency station of Anaheim and that substantial savings will result.¹

Applicant's Exhibits 3 through 8 in evidence show station operations. Exhibit 7 shows the annual savings to be gained by closing the station amount to a net of \$10,304. Exhibit 8 describes the proposed handling of the service functions for Southern Pacific patrons as follows:

1 The Commission takes official notice that on May 1, 1971, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, a quasi public corporation, assumed responsibility for the operation of inter-city passenger trains.

1. Carload Freight Service ✓

Except for occasionally signing a bill of lading brought to the office, the Santa Ana agent does not perform any of these functions. Such service will continue to be handled by the Anaheim agency or the Anaheim District Freight Office by toll-free telephone calls, by clerk, or messenger service from Anaheim.

2. Less-Than-Carload Freight Service ✓

None of these functions are now handled at the Santa Ana agency. Pacific Motor Trucking Co. handles all less-than-carload freight for Southern Pacific Transportation Company; drivers are equipped to assist customers with information and documentation.

Findings

Upon consideration of the evidence the Commission finds that:

1. Adequate and convenient service is available for Santa Ana agency users freight service at the Anaheim agency and public convenience and necessity no longer requires the maintenance by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company of an agency at Santa Ana, and that the maintenance of station buildings at Santa Ana is no longer required. ✓

2. Operation of the station functions at Santa Ana as a nonagency station will result in annual savings to applicant in excess of \$10,000.

3. The agency closing will not affect U.S. mail delivery; carload freight, less-than-carload freight; ✓ or telegram service. The present agent on duty will be employed elsewhere on applicant's system.

Conclusion

The Commission concludes that the application should be granted. Applicant will be required to maintain its Santa Ana station as a nonagency station.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

Southern Pacific Transportation Company is authorized to discontinue its agency at Santa Ana, Orange County, and remove the station building and appurtenances from public service, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Applicant shall maintain said station in a nonagency status for the receipt or delivery of freight in carload lots.
- (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 Santa Ana, Orange County, Southern Pacific Transportation 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, Southern Pacific Transportation Company shall file in duplicate amendments to its tariffs showing the change authorized herein and shall make reference in such notice and tariffs to this decision as authority for the changes. In no event shall the agent be removed, pursuant to the authority hereinabove granted, earlier than the effective date of the tariff filings required hereunder.

- (c) Within thirty days after discontinuance of service as herein authorized, applicant shall, in writing, notify this Commission thereof and of compliance with the above conditions.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California,
this 18th day of May, 1971.

[Signature]
Chairman
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
Commissioners