

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 80427

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 }
passenger agency service on holidays }
at Palo Alto, County of Santa Clara, }
State of California. }

Application No. 53015
(Filed November 30, 1971)

Harold S. Lentz, Attorney at Law, for Southern
Pacific Transportation Company, applicant.
Peter G. Stone, City Attorney, by Robert K. Booth, Jr.,
for City of Palo Alto, interested party.
Paul A. Burket, for the Commission staff.

O P I N I O N.

By this application, applicant seeks discontinuance on holidays of passenger agency service at Palo Alto, County of Santa Clara, State of California.

Public hearing was held before Examiner Porter on April 6, 1972 at Palo Alto and the matter submitted.

Evidence was produced that applicant maintains a passenger agency at the station of Palo Alto, Santa Clara County, which is presently open seven days a week, including New Year's Day, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

On Saturdays, Sundays and such holidays, casual traffic - passengers that use one-way or round-trip tickets - predominate.

During weekdays commuters holding monthly commutation tickets or weekly commutation tickets, and 20-ride family tickets make up the major portion of the traffic.

At present there are no stations open on the above-named holidays on the Peninsula other than the terminals at San Francisco and San Jose and the station at Palo Alto.

There is no holiday agency service provided anywhere on the Peninsula between the terminals of San Francisco and San Jose except for Palo Alto.

The Palo Alto station was utilized because applicant operated main line train service on the Peninsula - the Coast Daylight, the Lark and the Del Monte. When these main line trains operated at the stations, there was some need for the sale of tickets, checking of baggage, making of itineraries, and reservations. With the take-over of main line passenger service by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, it was their decision that the trains should operate from Oakland to Los Angeles along the east side to San Jose. Since that occurred, there has been no need for service on holidays on the Peninsula.

The Peninsula service now handles only commuters and the casual traffic that may board a commuter train to go to San Francisco.

If the Palo Alto station is closed, a passenger will merely board the train and purchase a ticket from the conductor. For those who want to purchase commute or multiple-ride tickets, there are various methods of purchasing tickets either by mail or at the San Francisco station.

Based on the evidence, the Commission finds that business on holidays does not warrant keeping the Palo Alto ticket office open on holidays; the general public can be adequately and conveniently served on holidays by purchasing tickets either on the train or at other agency stations. Public convenience and necessity no longer require passenger agency service at Palo Alto on holidays.

The Commission concludes that the application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that Southern Pacific Transportation Company is authorized to discontinue passenger agency service on holidays at Palo Alto, County of Santa Clara, State of California, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) After the effective date hereof and not less than ten days prior to the discontinuance of the agency at Palo Alto, County of Santa Clara, applicant shall post a notice of such discontinuance at the station and file a copy of such notice with the Commission and, after the effective date hereof and on not less than ten days' notice to the Commission and to the public, applicant 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 changes. This order shall not be construed as authorization to increase rates or charges. In no event shall the agency be closed, pursuant to the authority hereinabove granted, earlier than the effective date of the tariff filings required hereunder nor earlier than consistent with provisions of applicable labor agreements.
- (b) Within thirty days after discontinuance of service as herein authorized, applicant shall, in writing, notify this Commission of the discontinuance thereof and of the compliance with the above conditions.
- (c) This authorization shall expire, if not exercised within one year, unless time be extended.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 29th
day of AUGUST, 1972.

Vernon L. Stinson
President
William J. ...
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Commissioners