

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 80580

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 Cruz, County of Santa Cruz,  
State of California.

Application No. 53324  
(Filed May 11, 1972)

Harold S. Lentz, for applicant.  
Paul A. Burkett, for the Commission  
staff.

O P I N I O N

By this application, Southern Pacific Transportation Company (S.P.) requests authority to discontinue its agency at Santa Cruz, and to remove the station building and appurtenances from public service.

A duly noticed public hearing was held before Examiner O'Leary at Santa Cruz on July 18, 1972. The matter was submitted upon the filing of the transcript on July 20, 1972.

The evidence discloses that the station at Santa Cruz is staffed by a single employee, the local agent. The station is presently open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., 5 days a week. It is closed for lunch one hour per day.

Under the proposal to close the Santa Cruz agency, the services presently available through the agent will be available through applicant's agency station at Watsonville Junction. Toll-free telephone service will be afforded Santa Cruz patrons for the purpose of contacting the Watsonville Junction station.

The volume of business handled at the Santa Cruz station for the years 1970 and 1971 was as follows:

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Carloads:		
Originated	3,861	3,179
Terminated	1,180	875

Less-than-carload shipments, Western Union, U.S. mail, Railway Express and passenger tickets are not handled at Santa Cruz.

Applicant estimates that elimination of the agency will result in an annual net savings of approximately \$12,000.

A bridge and building supervisor of applicant's Western Division testified that the station building has extensive termite damage and is in need of painting. The witness estimated it would cost \$7,500 to repair the termite damage and \$2,300 to paint the building.

There are no protests; however, an attempted appearance by the president of the Santa Cruz Historical Society was challenged by the applicant under Rule 54 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The statement given by the president of the Santa Cruz Historical Society pursuant to Rule 54 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure disclosed that her sole interest was the preservation of the building for historical purposes. The Examiner properly ruled that the appearance not be allowed since it was obvious that participation by the Santa Cruz Historical Society would have unduly broadened the issues pertinent to the application.

After consideration the Commission finds that public convenience and necessity no longer require the maintenance by Southern Pacific Transportation Company of an agency at Santa Cruz and concludes that the application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Southern Pacific Transportation Company is authorized to discontinue its agency at Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, 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 only and applicant shall make available toll-free telephone service between Santa Cruz and its station at Watsonville Junction
- (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 Cruz, applicant 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, 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 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.

2. After the authority granted by paragraph 1 of this order has been exercised, Southern Pacific Transportation Company may remove its station building and appurtenances from public service at Santa Cruz.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 11th  
day of OCTOBER, 1972.

Yusuf L. Stevens  
President  
William J. Lyons, Jr.  
Richard J. Lyons  
John W. Holmes  
Commissioners

Commissioner D. W. Holmes, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.