

Decision No. 81506

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 Selma, County of Fresno, State)
of California.)

Application No. 53636
(Filed October 12, 1972)

Harold S. Lentz, Attorney at Law, for Southern
Pacific Transportation Company, applicant.
Miles J. Hansen, Attorney at Law, for the City
of Selma, protestant.
Paul A. Burket, for the Commission staff.

O P I N I O N

By this application, the Southern Pacific Transportation Company seeks authority to discontinue its agency and to remove its station building and appurtenances in Selma, Fresno County.

A duly noticed public hearing was held before Examiner Mooney in Fresno on March 8, 1973, on which date the matter was submitted.

Five employee witnesses testified on behalf of applicant as follows: The station at Selma is staffed by a single employee who is on duty from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. five days a week; the station is closed one hour a day for lunch; the agent's principal functions are handling waybills, bills of lading, and car orders, along with occasional freight claims and miscellaneous duties; these services will be available through applicant's agency station in Fresno which has 41 employees and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week; weekend service in the Selma area is now handled by the Fresno station; the Fresno station is tied

into a computerized system that can answer shipper's questions promptly; under the present system, inquiries are referred to Fresno by the Selma agent; Selma shippers will be afforded toll-free telephone service to Fresno; the duties performed by the agent at Selma require a maximum of three hours per day; an employee from the Fresno office calls at Selma daily and could perform all duties necessary to be performed at Selma in one-half hour; the station at Selma is in poor condition; the annual savings that would be realized if the agency is closed is \$10,500; this includes the salary of the agent who would be transferred elsewhere and takes into account the additional telephone, automobile, and other expenses to Fresno; Selma Pressure Treating Company receives approximately 100 carloads of lumber per year; it has no spur facilities and must receive the shipments at the Selma team track; the dock and team track are inadequate; if the sought authority is granted, the team track will be improved and extended to accommodate additional cars, a concrete dock will be installed, and the surrounding area will be paved; from an environmental standpoint, the appearance of the property would be improved, and the modification of the team track and dock would reduce the amount of switching and resulting diesel emissions.

No less-than-carload rail shipments are handled by the Selma station. They are handled by Pacific Motor Trucking which is not involved in this proceeding. According to applicant's Exhibit 7, the number of carloads originating at Selma in 1971 and 1972 were 672 and 470, respectively, and the number terminating were 397 and 446, respectively.

A letter of protest was received from the Selma Chamber of Commerce which asserted that its protest was on behalf of 11 shippers. The mayor of Selma testified that he had been requested by the city council and some local industries to protest the closing; that it would result in the termination of a vital service for the shipping public; and that the closing is not justified and should be denied.

It is apparent that no substantial inconvenience would be experienced by shippers and receivers of freight at Selma by closing and removing the Selma agency station. The application will be granted.

It is to be noted that the authority granted herein relates to the removal of the agency station only. Such action would not result in any substantial effect on the environment. Any improvements of the Selma team track, docks, or loading areas that may be contemplated by applicant are not a part of this proceeding.

Findings and Conclusion

1. Adequate and convenient service is available for Selma agency customers at the Fresno agency approximately 15 miles away.
2. Operating the Selma facility as a nonagency station will result in a considerable annual saving to the applicant and will not substantially inconvenience the public.
3. All of the work and duties of the present agent at Selma can be handled at Fresno.
4. Public convenience and necessity no longer require the Southern Pacific Transportation Company to provide an agent at Selma, California.
5. We find with reasonable certainty that the project involved in this proceeding will not have a significant effect on the environment.

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

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Southern Pacific Transportation Company is authorized to discontinue its agency and remove from public service its station building and appurtenances at Selma, Fresno County, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Applicant shall maintain said station in a non-agency status for the receipt or delivery of freight in carload and less-than-carload quantities.
- (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 Selma, 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.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 19th
day of JUNE, 1973.

Yves L. Stenger
President
William Symons, Jr.
[Signature]
[Signature]
Commissioners

Commissioner J. P. Vukasin, Jr., being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.