

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 81873

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 build-
ing and appurtenances from public
service at Soledad, County of
Monterey, State of California.

Application No. 53440
(Filed July 7, 1972)

Harold S. Lentz, Attorney at Law, for
applicant.
Edward J. Foley, Attorney at Law, A. N.
Anderson, and Jack Francioni, for
City of Soledad; Alex Alcantara and
Ed Friedrich, for Soledad Chamber of
Commerce; Salvatore B. Russo, for
Assemblyman Bob Wood; Thomas Hambey,
for Tom Hambey & Son, Inc.; Jack E.
McCowan, for Berger & Plate Division
Pacific Molasses Co.; Arthur Bigiogni,
for B & P Packing Co.; and Abramson,
Church & Stave, by Robert M. Hinrichs,
Attorney at Law, and O. P. Murphy, for
O. P. Murphy & Sons; protestants.
Minnie F. Prewitt, for herself, and
Bertram F. Rudolph, Jr., for Monterey
County Taxpayers' Association, Inc.,
interested parties.
Paul A. Burket, 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 and to remove its station building and appurtenances from public service at Soledad, county of Monterey.

A duly noticed public hearing was held before Examiner O'Leary at Soledad on September 26 and 27, 1972. The matter was submitted on the latter date subject to the filing of the transcript

which was filed November 1, 1972. Subsequently two protestants, the city of Soledad and O. P. Murphy & Sons, filed petitions to set aside submission of the application. On December 19, 1972 the Commission issued Decision No. 80850 which ordered submission of the application set aside and the matter reopened for further hearing. Further hearings were held at Soledad before Examiner O'Leary on March 22 and April 24, 1973. The matter was submitted on the latter date subject to the filing of the transcript which was filed on May 8, 1973.

The station at Soledad is staffed by a single employee who is on duty from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., five days a week. The station is closed one hour a day for lunch. The employee also works overtime as the need arises. The nonagency points of Molus and Camphora are also served by the Soledad agency.

Under the proposal to close the Soledad agency the services presently available through the agent will be available through applicant's agency station at Gonzales which is located approximately 8.5 miles north of Soledad. The station at Gonzales is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., six days a week. It is staffed by a single employee Monday thru Friday and a relief man on Saturday. It is also closed one hour for lunch. Overtime is worked as the need arises. Toll-free telephone service will be afforded Soledad patrons for the purpose of contacting the Gonzales station.

Only carload freight is handled at Soledad. The volume of business handled and the resultant revenue for 1970, 1971, and 1972 was as follows:

<u>Carload Shipments</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Originated	1,861	1,919	2,103
Terminated	<u>83</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>20</u>
Total	1,944	1,945	2,123
Revenue	\$630,303	\$681,929	\$1,005,795

Applicant anticipates annual savings in excess of \$18,000 if the Soledad station is closed.

The protestants testified that they were fearful that if the station is closed the agent at Gonzales would not be as accessible as the agent at Soledad, and their needs would not be served as well as presently.

Findings

1. Though the carload shipments and total revenue at the Soledad agency have increased in recent years, there is not sufficient business to justify a full-time employee and the maintenance of the agency at Soledad.

2. The public will be adequately served by the agency station at Gonzales, which is located 8.5 miles from Soledad, is open six days a week, and will afford toll-free telephone service to Soledad patrons.

3. Closing of the agency station at Soledad will provide annual savings to applicant of approximately \$18,000.

4. We find with reasonable certainty that the project involved in this proceeding will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Conclusion

Public convenience and necessity no longer require the maintenance by Southern Pacific Transportation Company of an agency at Soledad. The application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that Southern Pacific Transportation Company is authorized to discontinue its agency and remove its station building and appurtenances at Soledad, Monterey County, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Southern Pacific Transportation Company shall maintain the station in a nonagency status for the receipt or delivery of freight in carload lots only.

- (b) Within one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this order and not less than ten days prior to the discontinuance of the agency at Soledad, Southern Pacific Transportation Company shall post a notice of such discontinuance at the station and, within one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this order 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 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 earlier than the effective date of the tariff filings.
- (c) Within thirty days after discontinuance of service applicant shall give written notice to the Commission that it has complied with this order.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 14th day of SEPTEMBER, 1973.

I dissent:

William L. Sturgeon, Commissioner

William L. Sturgeon
President
William L. Sturgeon
William L. Sturgeon

Commissioners

Commissioner Thomas Moran, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.