

Decision No. 83260**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the Application of
Steven R. Jones and Kathleen A. Jones,
his wife (MT. LASSEN MOTOR TRANSIT, INC.),
for an order authorizing to increase
passenger fares.

} Application No. 54669
(Filed February 19, 1974)

O P I N I O N

Mt. Lassen Motor Transit, Inc. is authorized to transport passengers and express as a passenger stage corporation between Red Bluff and Susanville, a distance of 108 miles along State Route 36, with the intermediate points of Chester and Westwood. One round trip is operated daily, except Sundays.

Notice of the filing of the application for a fare increase was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on February 20, 1974. No protests have been received. The applicant has been operating at a loss.

The staff of the Transportation Division made an analysis of applicant's operations and submitted a report on June 10, 1974 which is hereby received as Exhibit 1.

The present passenger fares have been in effect since 1946. The one-way fare from Red Bluff to Susanville is now \$4.60 and the average revenue per passenger is \$2.33. Applicant has requested that the Red Bluff-Susanville fare be raised to \$6.30, which should bring the average revenue per passenger up to \$3.15. The staff report reveals that the number of passengers transported by the applicant is steadily declining and now is averaging two passengers per trip. The staff report suggests that applicant should also try to increase its freight and mail revenue, since passenger fares constitute less than a quarter of its operating revenue. It is recommended that the application be granted ex parte.

We find that applicant has not raised its passenger fares since 1946; that its operating expenses have exceeded its income for the past three years; that applicant needs additional revenue to continue operating; and that the increases in fares authorized by this decision are justified.

We conclude that the application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Applicants are authorized to establish the increased fares proposed in Application No. 54669. Tariff publications authorized to be made as a result of this order may be made effective not earlier than five days after the effective date of this order on not less than five days' notice to the Commission and to the public.
2. The authority shall expire unless exercised within ninety days after the effective date of this order.
3. In addition to the required posting and filing of tariffs, applicant shall give notice to the public by posting in its buses and terminals a printed explanation of its fares. Such notice shall be posted not less than five days before the effective date of the

fare changes and shall remain posted for a period of not less than thirty days.

The effective date of this order is the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 6th
day of AUGUST, 1974.

Vernon L. Sturgeon
President

William J. Brown

William J. Brown

Alfred J. [illegible]

Commissioners

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