

Decision No. 85115

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of SIERRA PACIFIC
AIRLINES, a corporation, for
a Class "B" certificate to
operate as a charter party
carrier of passengers.
(TCP-39-B)

Application No. 55626
(Filed April 10, 1975)

O P I N I O N

Applicant requests authority to operate out of Mammoth Lakes Airport in Mono County as a Class B charter-party carrier of passengers. Applicant will provide service with a 41-passenger 1960 Crown bus and a 41-passenger 1961 Crown bus. Applicant's principal bank is the Bank of America in Bishop and its insurance agent is the William T. Rei Company of Danville, California. Applicant is an operating airline with sufficient financial stability to institute the proposed service.

An informal conference was held in Los Angeles on June 4, 1975 with all three parties represented who recently filed separately for authority to provide passenger bus service in the vicinity of Mammoth Lakes. Applicant herein was present along with Parent-Greenlee (dba Mammoth Lift Lines, Application No. 55621) and Bob L. Hunden (Wheels Express, Application No. 55597). All parties were represented by counsel. It was agreed that Sierra Pacific Airlines is qualified to receive the requested authority and should be authorized to transport its airline passengers between Mammoth Lakes Airport, Mammoth Lakes Village, and the Mammoth Mountain ski lifts; also between Bishop Airport and the above-named points. It was noted that

transportation from Bishop Airport is required only when planes are forced to land there due to weather conditions at Mammoth Lakes Airport. There are no charter operators based in Mono County. Greyhound Lines, Inc. wrote on May 20, 1975 to advise that it has no interest in this proceeding.

Findings

1. Applicant will provide an additional service for its airline passengers as a charter-party carrier of passengers from Mammoth Lakes Airport.
2. There are no other charter operators based in Mono County.
3. Greyhound Lines, Inc. operates in the vicinity and has advised the Commission in writing that it has no interest in this proceeding.
4. Applicant has the ability, experience, equipment, and financial resources to perform the proposed service.
5. Public convenience and necessity require that the service proposed by applicant be established.
6. Applicant should be authorized to transport its airline passengers within a service area encompassing Mammoth Lakes Airport, Mammoth Lakes Village, Mammoth Mountain ski lifts, and Bishop Airport.
7. 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 proposed authority should be issued as provided in the following order.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. A certificate of public convenience and necessity, to be renewed each year, shall be issued to Sierra Pacific Airlines authorizing it to operate as a Class B charter-party carrier of arriving or

departing airline passengers exclusively, as defined in Section 5383 of the Public Utilities Code, within a service area encompassing Mammoth Lakes Airport, Mammoth Lakes Village, the Mammoth Mountain ski lifts, and Bishop Airport.

2. In providing service pursuant to the certificate to be issued, applicant shall comply with and observe the following service regulation. Failure so to do may result in a cancellation of the operating authority.

Applicant will be required, among other things, to comply with and observe the safety rules administered by the California Highway Patrol, the rules and other regulations of the Commission's General Order No. 98-A, and the insurance requirements of the Commission's General Order No. 115-Series.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 18th day of NOVEMBER, 1975.

William J. Gorman President
Vernon L. Sturgeon
Robert J. Sturgeon Commissioners