

Decision No. S5665

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
Yosemite Park and Curry Co. for
authority to increase its fares
for intrastate passenger stage
service.

Application No. 56149
(Filed December 29, 1975)

O P I N I O N

Yosemite Park and Curry Co., a corporation, operates concessions in Yosemite National Park (Yosemite). It conducts passenger stage and newspaper and package express operations between Merced, Fresno, and Lee Vining, on the one hand, and Yosemite, on the other hand, and from, to, and between intermediate points. It also performs transportation service entirely within Yosemite which is regulated by the National Park Service.

Applicant seeks authority to increase its passenger fares which are subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. The following table sets forth the present and proposed through fares between the termini indicated and the amount and percent of the increases sought:

<u>Between Yosemite And</u>	<u>Present Fares</u>		<u>Proposed Fares</u>		<u>Amount of Increase</u>		<u>Percent of Increase</u>	
	<u>One Way</u>	<u>Round Trip</u>	<u>One Way</u>	<u>Round Trip</u>	<u>One Way</u>	<u>Round Trip</u>	<u>One Way</u>	<u>Round Trip</u>
Merced	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$7.20	\$14.40	\$1.20	\$2.40	20%	20%
Fresno	7.50	15.00	9.00	18.00	1.50	3.00	20	20
Lee Vining	7.50	15.00	9.00	18.00	1.50	3.00	20	20

It proposes to increase the one-way fares from, to, and between intermediate points on each of the Fresno and Merced routes by the amount of the percentage increase sought for the through fares for each route and to make the round-trip intermediate fares for the three routes 200 percent of the one-way fares. According to the application, the intermediate traffic accounts for a very small volume of the traffic handled. No increases are proposed in express rates.

Applicant's fares were last adjusted by Decision No. 83188 dated July 23, 1974 in Application No. 55005.

The application states that: The major portion of applicant's passenger revenue is derived from the operation between Merced and Yosemite. Applicant's business is seasonal in nature, and in 1975 well over one-half of applicant's revenues from intrastate passenger transportation were received during the months of July, August, and September. A substantial portion of applicant's transportation business consists of group tours, which are arranged by travel agents several months in advance. Applicant is currently preparing brochures for mailing to travel agents and others which will contain transportation fares for the summer of 1976, and applicant does not wish to raise its fares after such brochures are relied upon by the persons arranging group tours.

The estimate of operating results for the service in question under present fares for the historical year ended August 25, 1975 and under present and proposed fares for the rate year ending December 31, 1976, as set forth in C, E, and F, respectively, to the application are as follows:

	<u>Historical Year</u>	<u>Rate Year</u>	
	<u>Present</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
	<u>Fares</u>	<u>Fares</u>	<u>Fares</u>
Revenues*	\$362,451	\$362,451	\$362,451
Proposed Increase			72,159
Diminution			(14,432)
			<u>\$420,178</u>
Expenses	<u>394,217</u>	<u>410,683</u>	<u>415,446</u>
Operating Income	<u>\$(31,766)</u>	<u>\$(48,232)</u>	<u>\$ 4,732</u>
Income Taxes	<u>(15,407)</u>	<u>(23,393)</u>	<u>2,271</u>
Net Income	<u>\$(16,359)</u>	<u>\$(24,839)</u>	<u>\$ 2,461</u>
Operating Ratio			
After Income Taxes	104.51%	106.88%	99.41%
	(Indicates Loss)		

* Includes \$1,656 nonpassenger revenue.

The staff of the Transportation Division has made an analysis of the applicant's operations and submitted a report on the estimated results of operations based on the rate year ending December 31, 1976 under present and proposed fares. The report is hereby received as Exhibit No. 1 (which is adopted by this decision).

The exhibit indicates the following results:

YOSEMITE PARK & CURRY CO.
RESULTS OF OPERATIONS
FOR COMMON CARRIER SERVICE

	Adjusted Historical Year Ended 12/31/74	Rate Year Ending 12/31/76 Present Fares	Requested Fares
Bus Miles	237,430	237,430	237,430
Passengers	63,550	63,550	60,370
Revenue			
Passenger	\$369,190	\$369,190	\$420,840
Other	1,430	1,430	1,430
Total Rev.	\$370,620	\$370,620	\$422,270
Expenses	364,940	401,910	402,690
Operating Income	\$ 5,680	\$(31,290)	\$ 19,580
Income Taxes	2,350	(12,040)	9,000
Net Income	\$ 3,330	\$(19,250)	\$ 10,580
Operating Ratio	99.1%	105.2%	97.2%
Rate of Return	2.5%	-	4.4%
Rate Base	\$135,610	\$242,490	\$242,490

The staff of the Finance and Accounts Division conducted a study of applicant's allocation procedures in connection with the application and submitted a report which is received in evidence as Exhibit 2. The report discloses that applicant does not maintain its accounting records in conformance with the prescribed "Chart of Accounts for Certificated Class II and Class III Motor Carriers of Passengers" which has been adopted by this Commission pursuant to Decision No. 76185 dated September 9, 1969 in Case No. 4713 and required to be maintained by applicant pursuant to Ordering Paragraph 8 of Decision No. 84295 dated April 8, 1975 in Application No. 53385.

Applicant is placed on notice that it should immediately revise its accounting system to conform to the "Chart of Accounts for Certificated Class II and Class III Motor Carriers of Passengers."

The application was served in accordance with the Commission's rules. No protests have been received. In accordance with Section 730.3 of the Public Utilities Code affected state and local public agencies and corporations operating passenger transit systems were notified of the application and were requested to furnish an analysis of the effect of the proposed rate increase on overall transportation problems within the territories served by such passenger transit systems. The parties so notified advised the proposed increase would have no effect upon their operations. The fare increase granted herein will result in a decrease in patronage of approximately 5 percent. The increase will have no effect upon public transit systems as proposed in required transportation plans prepared pursuant to Chapter 2.5 of Title 7 of the Government Code.

The Commission finds that:

1. The proposed increases are justified.
2. A public hearing is not necessary.
3. The requested fares would result in additional annual revenue of \$51,650.

The Commission concludes that the application should be granted and that the effective date of this order should be the date on which it is signed because there is no known opposition and there is no reason to delay granting the relief requested.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Yosemite Park and Curry Co. is authorized to establish the increased fares proposed in Application No. 56149. 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 13th
day of APRIL, 1976.

President
William J. ...
Vernon L. ...
Ellen
Robert ...
Commissioners

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