

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 87558 July 6, 1977

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of GOVERNMENT )  
SERVICES, INC., for authorization )  
to increase rates for passenger )  
stage, sightseeing tour service, )  
baggage, and express, between )  
Fresno and Kings Canyon National )  
Park, et al. )

Application No. 57072  
(Filed February 14, 1977)

O P I N I O N

Government Services, Inc. (GSI), a corporation, is operating as a passenger stage corporation (PSC-913) between Fresno and Sequoia National Park and intermediate points transporting passengers, baggage and express, and between Sequoia National Park and Kings Canyon National Park and intermediate points for the purpose of conducting sightseeing tours. The notice of filing this application appeared on the Commission's Daily Calendar of February 16, 1977.

The applicant alleges that the fuel, tire, maintenance and insurance costs continue to increase since the present fares and rates were authorized.

The present fares and rates were established by Decision 83787, dated December 10, 1974 in Application 55070.

The staff of the Transportation Division has made an analysis of the applicant's operations and submitted a report showing the separated results of operations for the historical year 1976 and the estimated future year ending December 31, 1977 under present and proposed rates. The staff analysis shows the applicant operated at a loss and that the requested increase is justified and reasonable. A table included in the staff report reveals that applicant lost \$6,365 during 1976 with an operating ratio of 132 percent. The proposed fare increase will provide additional annual revenue of \$4,350 and an operating ratio of 110.5 percent with about a 27.9 percent increase in fares. The staff recommends that the application be granted ex parte and be made effective immediately because of the seasonal nature of the transportation. The report is hereby received as Exhibit 1.

In accordance with Section 730.3 of the Public Utilities Code, affected State and local public agencies and corporations operating 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 that the proposed increase would have no effect upon their operations.

In accordance with Section 730.5 of the Public Utilities Code, 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. We find that the fares granted by this decision will result in a decrease in patronage of approximately 12.5 percent.

After consideration the Commission finds that:

1. The requested increase would result in additional annual revenue in the amount of \$4,350.
2. The proposed fare increase is justified.
3. A public hearing is unnecessary.
4. The applicant has not requested nor shown a need for an increase in the baggage or express rates.
5. The applicant's business is seasonal in nature and in order to receive benefits from the increase granted herein, it needs to be effective immediately.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Government Services, Inc. is authorized to increase the rates proposed in Application 57072. 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 rates. Such notice shall be posted not less than five days before the effective date of the rate changes and shall remain posted for a period of not less than thirty days.

In view of the extreme operating losses, even with the increased rates, and the seasonal nature of applicant's business, the effective date of this order is the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of JULY, 1977.

Rolot Batuman

President

William Sproule Jr.

Vernon L. Sturgeon

Richard D. Hamble

Commissioners