

ORIGINAL

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Decision No. \_\_\_\_\_

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application )  
 of ORANGE BELT STAGES For an Order )  
 Authorizing an Increase in Its ) Application No. 57056  
 Fares for Intrastate Passenger ) (Filed February 7, 1977)  
 Stage Service and its Rates For )  
 Intrastate Express Service. )

O P I N I O N

Orange Belt Stages, a passenger stage corporation (PSC-885), is engaged in the business of transporting passengers, baggage and express between points in California. Applicant operates three divisions of service in the vicinity of Bakersfield: (1) the Bakersfield-Barstow portion of Greyhound-Orange Belt joint through service, (2) local operations, and (3) intrastate charters. Applicant seeks authority to increase its intrastate passenger stage fares by approximately 30 percent as follows:

PRESENT AND PROPOSED INTRASTATE PASSENGER FARES

	<u>Present Fares</u>	<u>Proposed Fares</u>	<u>Amount of Increase</u>	<u>Percentage Increase</u>
Minimum Fare	\$ .55	\$ .65	\$ .10	18
0 - 25 Miles (per mile)	.05820	.0755	.01730	30
26 - 50 Miles (per mile)	.05438	.0705	.01612	30
51 - 100 Miles (per mile)	.05143	.0666	.015257	30
Over 100 Miles (per mile)	.04673	.0608	.01407	30
Round Trip Fares				
Percent of One-Way Fares	190	190	-	

Applicant also seeks authority to increase its express rates on its passenger stage operations by 9 percent.

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 future year ending

December 31, 1978 under present and proposed rates which is summarized as follows:

Item	Intrastate Passenger Stage Operations		
	1976	Rate Year 1978	
	Historical	Present	Proposed
	Year	Rates	Rates
Revenues	\$249,036	\$241,612	\$267,807
Expenses	326,731	352,305	355,769
Operating Income	-77,695	-110,693	-87,962
Income Taxes	200	200	200
Net Income	-77,895	-110,893	-88,162
Operating Ratio - %	131.28	145.90	132.92

The report is hereby received as Exhibit 1. The analysis shows that since the present fares and express rates were authorized by Decision No. 83756, dated November 26, 1974, in Application No. 55074, there have been marked increases in the costs of wages and fuel. The results of operations show that even with the proposed 30 percent fare increase, and 9 percent express rate increase, the operating ratio of the intrastate passenger stage operations would be over 132 percent, with a net loss of \$88,162.

In accordance with Sections 730.3 and 730.5 of the Public Utilities Code, the State and local agencies operating or planning public transit systems were notified and asked for comments regarding the proposed rate increase. The Kings County Regional Planning Agency and Kern County Council of Governments responded with the recommendation that the applicant be granted the requested rate increases.

Notice of the filing of this application appeared in the Commission's Daily Calendar on February 8, 1977. No protests or requests for public hearing have been received.

After consideration, the Commission finds that:

1. The requested rate increases would result in additional annual revenue of approximately \$26,000.
2. The proposed rate increases are justified.
3. A public hearing is not necessary.

The Commission concludes that the requested rate increases should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Orange Belt Stages is authorized to establish the increased rates proposed in Application 57056. 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 90 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 30 days.

In view of the extreme operating losses, even with the proposed increased rates, the effective date of this order is the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 7<sup>th</sup>  
day of SEPTEMBER, 1977.

Robert Batimich  
President

William Lyons Jr.

Richard D. Howell  
Vernon L. Sturgeon  
Commissioners

Commissioner Vernon L. Sturgeon, being  
necessarily absent, did not participate  
in the disposition of this proceeding.