

Decision No. 88350 JAN 17 1978

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Pacific Southwest )  
 Airlines for ex parte order )  
 authorizing special temporary )  
 suspension of passenger air )  
 service between San Diego and )  
 Ontario )

Application No. 57702  
 (Filed November 21, 1977)

ORDER GRANTING SUSPENSION OF SERVICE

Pacific Southwest Airlines (PSA) requests a suspension of service between San Diego (SAN) and Ontario (ONT) for a period of 90 days beginning January 4, 1978 to be granted on an ex parte basis. During this 90-day period PSA intends to monitor public response to the suspension, review its operational procedures and consider requesting a renewal of the suspension per Section 2766, or discontinuance of the SAN-ONT service per Section 2769.5 of the Passenger Air Carriers Act.

PSA cites the following reasons for the suspension:

- Low load factors for itself in this segment
- Low load factors for Air California in this segment
- Low SAN-ONT origin and destination traffic
- Operating losses on this segment
- Anticipation of lower-than-average load factors during the first quarter of the calendar year
- The freeing of aircraft for use on other segments, where the demand is greater, resulting in better service overall
- The conservation of fuel

PSA and Air California's flying times and fares are comparable (30 minutes versus 27 minutes and \$13.30 versus \$14.25 including tax, respectively) in this market. The \$13.30 fare was authorized by Decision No. 88180 with an effective date of not earlier than January 1, 1978. There are no other airlines providing scheduled service between San Diego and Ontario.

A review of SAN-ONT segment data for the twelve months prior to October 1977 shows an average monthly load factor of 18.1 percent for PSA and 30.9 percent for Air California. These are far below the load factor of 60.7 percent noted in establishing rates in Decision 88180. Had PSA's and Air California's passengers been accommodated on Air California's SAN-ONT flights during this period, Air California's highest monthly load factor would have been only 57.0 percent, and its average only 45.4 percent.

It appears that there is no need for two carriers to serve between San Diego and Ontario at this time. There are no protests.

IT IS ORDERED that: Pacific Southwest Airlines be authorized to suspend passenger air service between San Diego and Ontario pursuant to Section 2766 of the Public Utilities Code for a period of 90 days.

The effective date of this order is the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17th day of JANUARY, 19    

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President  
*William Squares, Jr.*  
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*Vernon L. Ferguson*  
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*Robert W. Howell*  
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*Clair D. DeLovich*  
Commissioners

Commissioner Robert Batlovich, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.