

Decision No. 88519 FEB 22 1978**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 per capita )  
 rates pursuant to Section 454 of the )  
 Public Utilities Code in connection )  
 with its intrastate passenger stage )  
 transportation service. )

Application No. 57690  
 (Filed November 17, 1977)

O P I N I O N

Yosemite Park and Curry Co., (PSC-109), a corporation, operates concessions in Yosemite Park (Yosemite). It conducts passenger stage operations transporting passengers, newspapers, and package express 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 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:

Between Yosemite And	Present Fares		Proposed Fares		Amount of Increase		% of Increase	
	One Way	Round Trip	One Way	Round Trip	One Way	Round Trip	One Way	Round Trip
Merced	\$7.20	\$14.40	\$ 8.65	\$17.30	\$1.45	\$2.90	20%	20%
Fresno	9.00	18.00	10.80	21.60	1.80	3.60	20%	20%
Lee Vining	9.00	18.00	10.80	21.60	1.80	3.60	20%	20%

It proposes to increase the one-way and round-trip fares from, to, and between intermediate points on each of the routes by 20 percent. 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 increased by authority of Decision No. 85665 dated April 13, 1976 in Application No. 56149.

The application states that: The major portion of the applicant's passenger revenue is derived from the operation between Merced and Yosemite. Applicant's business is seasonal in nature, and well over one-half of applicant's revenues from intrastate passenger transportation are 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 1978, and applicant does not wish to raise its fares after such brochures are relied upon by the persons arranging group tours.

The staff of the Transportation Division has made an analysis of applicant's operations and submitted a report on the estimated results of operations based on the future year ending June 30, 1979 under present and proposed fares which is summarized as follows:

PASSENGER STAGE OPERATIONS

Item	1976	Rate Year 1978-1979	
	Historical Year	Present Fares	Proposed Fares
Revenue	\$362,100	\$ 362,100	\$412,800
Expenses	\$439,300	\$ 465,700	\$469,400
Operating Income	\$-75,300	\$-101,600	\$-54,600
Income Taxes	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
Net Income	\$-75,500	\$-101,800	\$-54,800
Operating Ratio -%	121.4	128.6	113.8

The report is hereby received as Exhibit 1. The analysis shows that since the present fares were authorized by Decision 85665 there have been marked increases in the cost of wages, fuel, materials and station rent. The results of operation show that even with the proposed 20 percent fare increase, the operating ratio of the passenger stage service would be over 113 percent with a net loss of \$54,800.

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 that the proposed increase would have no effect upon their operations. The proposed fare increase is estimated to result in a decrease in patronage of approximately five percent. The fare 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.

Notice of the filing of this application appeared in the Commission's Daily Calendar on November 21, 1977. No protests or requests for public hearing have been received.

After consideration, the Commission finds that:

1. The requested fare increase would result in additional annual revenue of approximately \$50,700, but the operation would still be conducted at an annual loss of \$54,800.
2. The proposed fare increase is justified.
3. A public hearing is not necessary.

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 57690. 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.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 22nd  
day of FEBRUARY, 1978.

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President

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*Joseph L. Stinson*  
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*Robert P. Howell*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Clare J. DeLoach*  
Commissioners

Commissioner Robert Batinovich, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.  
Commissioner William Symons, Jr., being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.