

Decision No. 89075 JUL 11 1978

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)	
Mrs. Marguerite Etcheverry, dba THE)	Application No. 57973
SQUIRREL - REDWOODS BUS TOURS for)	(Filed April 6, 1978)
Authority to Increase Passenger Rates)	

O P I N I O N

Mrs. Margurite Etcheverry, an individual doing business as Squirrel-Redwoods Bus Tours, is operating as a passenger stage corporation (PSC-948) between Hartsook Inn, Benbow Inn, Richardson Grove State Park and Garberville on the one hand, and various scenic points of interest in Humboldt County on the other hand.

By this application Squirrel-Redwoods Bus Tours seeks authority to increase passenger fares approximately 20 percent.

The present fares were originally established by Decision No. 83799, dated May 30, 1974 in Application No. 54924.

Applicant alleges that its present rates do not yield sufficient revenue to allow it to conduct its passenger stage operation at a profit.

Applicant further alleges that additional revenue is required because of increased cost in all phases of operation, including fuel, insurance, labor and maintenance.

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 fares, which is summarized as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Present Fares</u>	<u>Requested Fares</u>
Revenue	6,966	\$ 8,388
Expenses	7,080	7,080
Income Tax	200	200
Net Income	-314	1,108
Operating Ratio - %	104	87

The report is hereby received as Exhibit 1. The results of operation show that with the proposed 20 percent fare increase, the operating ratio of the passenger stage service would be 87 percent with a net income of \$1,108.

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. No replies were received.

Notice of filing of this application appeared in the Commission's Daily Calendar on April 7, 1978. No protests have been received.

After consideration the Commission finds that:

1. The requested fare increase would result in additional annual revenue of \$1,422.
2. The proposed fare increase is justified.
3. A public hearing is unnecessary.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Squirrel-Redwoods Bus Tours is authorized to establish the increased fares proposed in Application 57973. Tariff publications authorized to be made as a result of this order may be made effective not earlier than on 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 her buses and terminals, a printed explanation of her 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.

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4. Since applicant is operating at a loss, and since applicant operates only during the tourist season of June, July and August, the effective date of this order is the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 11th day of JULY, 1978.

Robert Betman
President

Richard D. Howell
Clare T. Delisle
Commissioners

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

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