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Decision No. 90291

MAY 8 1979

**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. 58582  
(Filed January 5, 1979)

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 National Park and	Fare Authorized By Decision		PROPOSED Fares		Amount of Increase		% of Increase	
	No. 88519							
	<u>One Way</u>	<u>Round Trip</u>	<u>One Way</u>	<u>Round Trip</u>	<u>One Way</u>	<u>Round Trip</u>	<u>One Way</u>	<u>Round Trip</u>
Merced	8.65	17.30	9.50	19.00	.85	1.70	10%	10%
Fresno	10.80	21.60	11.90	23.80	1.10	2.20	10%	10%
Lee Vining	10.80	21.60	11.90	23.80	1.10	2.20	10%	10%

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Applicant also proposes to increase the one-way and round-trip fares from, to, and between intermediate points on each of the routes by 10 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 88519 dated February 22, 1978 in Application 57690.

The application states that the applicant's business is seasonal in nature, and most of its 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 1979, and applicant does not wish to raise its fares after such brochures are relied upon by the persons arranging group tours.

A study for the last rate increase application (Decision 88519 in Application 57690) estimated the results shown below in Column 2 for the rate year ending June 30, 1979.

The staff of the Transportation Division has completed an engineering-economic review of applicant's operations and prepared a report on the estimated results of operations for the future year ending June 30, 1980 under present and proposed fares which is summarized below in Columns 3 and 4. The estimated results are based on the applicant's recorded expenses (unaudited) for 12 months ending May 28, 1978.

PASSENGER STAGE OPERATIONS

Item	1978-79	Rate Year 1979-1980	
		Present	Proposed
(1)	(2)	Fares	Fares
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Revenue	\$ 412,800	\$ 476,400	\$ 524,000
Expenses	\$ 469,400	\$ 504,900	\$ 504,900
Operating Income	\$ -54,600	\$ -28,500	\$ 19,100
Income Taxes	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 4,700
Net Income	\$ -54,800	\$ -28,700	\$ 14,400
Operating Ratio - %	113.8	106.0	97.3

Since the present fares were authorized by Decision 88519, there have been increases in expenses, particularly for fuel and purchased transportation. The applicant is presently operating at a loss. The results of the operation show that with the proposed 10 percent fare increase, the operating ratio of the passenger stage service would be 97.3 percent. The proposed rates are reasonable in light of the President's Guidelines For Wage and Price Increases and are necessary to ensure the continued viability of this transportation service.

Copies of this application were served on interested parties, and the application was listed on the Commission's Daily Calendar on January 9, 1979. Additionally, the Commission staff notified affected public transit operators and planning agencies of the filing of this application pursuant to California Public Utilities Code Sections 730.3 and 730.5. The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors initially submitted a letter protesting the rate increase, but after receiving additional information, the Board submitted another letter withdrawing the protest and supporting the increase.

F I N D I N G S

After consideration, the Commission finds that: . . .

1. The requested fare increase would result in additional annual revenue of approximately \$47,600.
2. The proposed fare increase is justified.
3. A public hearing is not necessary.

The Commission concludes that the application shall be granted.

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 58582. 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.

Since the carrier is currently operating at a loss, the effective date of this order is the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 5th day of MAY, 1979.

Commissioner Richard D. Gravelle, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

John E. Bryan  
President

Armon L. Sturgeon

Clare J. Desjardis  
Richard W. Smith  
Commissioners