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ORIGINALDecision No. 90946 OCT 23 1979

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application)
of)

24 HOUR AIRPORT EXPRESS, INC.)

for authority to increase its)
passenger stage corporation)
fares, pursuant to Section 454)
of the Public Utilities Code.)Application No. 59035
(Filed July 30, 1979)O P I N I O N

24 HOUR AIRPORT EXPRESS, INC. (hereinafter referred to as "24 HOUR"), provides service as a passenger stage corporation (PSC-1043) in the greater Los Angeles area. The service consists of demand-responsive, door-to-door transportation between the Los Angeles International Airport, the John Wayne Airport (Orange County), the Hollywood-Burbank Airport, the Long Beach Airport, and the Ontario International Airport, on the one hand, and points and places in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Service area, on the other hand, as defined in the carrier's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity issued by this Commission. 24 HOUR also operates charter service under authority of Commission Charter permit TCP-325-P. These services are operated with a fleet of 35 15-passenger vans.

By this application, 24 HOUR seeks authority to increase each of its passenger fares by \$2.00. Applicant alleges that the proposed fare increase is necessary to "to offset the uncontrollable fuel costs which have steadily and substantially increased since the establishment of the current tariff fares" in 1978, which, applicant alleges, were based upon costs incurred during the year May 1, 1977 through April 30, 1978, prior to the recent substantial

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escalation in fuel costs^{1/} Applicant further alleges that "rapidly increasing costs have resulted in a condition whereby revenues are barely covering expenses. It is anticipated that expenses will continue to experience a significant acceleration in the near future and will adversely affect operations unless the requested increases are granted"; also, that this application would increase revenue by \$112,478.

Applicant's present fares range from \$16.00 to \$46.00, depending upon origin, destination, and the distance travelled.

Notices of this application were served to interested parties, and the application was listed in the Commission's Daily Calendar on August 1, 1979. Additionally, the Commission staff notified public transit operators and planning agencies of the filing of this application pursuant to California Public Utilities Code Sections 730.3 and 730.5. No protests have been received to the granting of this application.

After consideration, the Commission finds that the increase in fares authorized by this decision are justified and are reasonable. Also, that the proposed fares are justifiable in light of the President's Guidelines for Wage and Price Increases as necessary to ensure the continued viability of this passenger transportation service. A public hearing on this application is not necessary. The application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. 24 HOUR AIRPORT EXPRESS, INC. is authorized to establish the increased fares as requested. Tariff publications authorized to be made as a result of this order shall be filed not earlier than the effective date of this order and 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.

^{1/} Applicant's present fares were based on a fuel cost of \$0.52 per gallon. Its fuel cost in May 1979 was \$0.74 per gallon which applicant states will result in an additional fuel expense of \$115,359.

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2. This 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 vehicles and terminals a printed explanation of its fares. Such notices 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.

The effective date of this order is thirty days from the date hereof.

Dated OCT 23 1979, at San Francisco, California.

Commissioner JOHN E. BRYSON

Present but not participating.

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

President

Commissioners