

91759 MAY 6 1980

Decision No. \_\_\_\_\_

**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of }  
 Mrs. Marguerite Etcheverry, dba THE } Application No. 59445  
 SQUIRREL - Redwoods Bus Tours for } (February 11, 1980)  
 Authority to Increase Passenger Fares.)

O P I N I O N

Mrs. Marguerite Etcheverry, doing business as THE SQUIRREL-Redwood Bus Tours, a passenger stage corporation (PSC-948), is engaged in the business of transporting passengers on sightseeing tours through the Redwoods of Humboldt County in Northern California. Applicant operates these tours with a specially-modified bus which provides for open-air vistas of the scenery. The tours are also narrated so that the passengers are informed of the historic and cultural significance of the points of interest along applicant's two routes.

Applicant seeks authority to increase her adult passenger stage fares from \$9 to \$15, and her children's fares from \$4.00 to \$7.50, to offset the rising costs of fuel and operation and to compensate the proprietor for some of her personal labors in driving the bus, narrating tours, and overseeing the operations of the business.

The Transportation Division staff has made an engineering economic study of the applicant's operations under both present and proposed fares, which indicates that even with the proposed fare increase, the applicant will operate at a small loss. A summary of these data <sup>is</sup> as follows:

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	<u>HISTORIC YEAR 1979</u>		<u>RATE YEAR 1980</u>	
			<u>PRESENT FARES</u>	<u>PROPOSED FARE</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 5,908		\$ 6,888	\$11,702.
Total Operating Expenses	10,728		11,936	12,041
Operating Income	(4,840)		(5,048)	(340)
Operating Ratio (Before Taxes)	1.82		1.73	1.03

The expenses shown include \$2,985 allowance in the rate year to compensate the proprietor for her direct labor in driving the bus on a substitute basis. The proprietor is willing to operate at a small loss because it is a method of self-employment and she hopes to make it profitable in the near future.

The increase authorized herein is necessary to insure the continuation of this transportation service, and thus should be excepted from the President's Guidelines for Wage and Price Increases.

Notice of filing of this application appeared in the Commission's Daily Calendar on February 11, 1980. Additionally, the Commission staff notified public transit operation 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.

After consideration, the Commission finds that:

1. The requested fare and rate increases would result in additional annual revenue of approximately \$4,813.
2. The proposed fare and rate increases are justified.
3. A public hearing is not necessary.

The Commission concludes that the requested passenger fare increases should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

SS 1. Mrs. Marguerite Etcheverry, *aka THE SQUIRREL - Redwoods Bus Lines* is authorized to establish the increased passenger fares proposed in Application No. 59445. 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 ten days after the effective date of this order on not less than ten 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 passenger fares

and express rates. Such notice shall be posted not less than five days before the effective date of the passenger fare and express rate changes and shall remain posted for a period of not less than thirty days.

In view of the operating loss, the effective date of this order is the date hereof.

Dated MAY 6 1980, at San Francisco, California.

John E. Guyan  
President

Veronica L. Strueman

Robert D. Gault

Charles J. ...

Edward W. ...  
Commissioners