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ORIGINAL

Decision No. _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
of Gary Bowen and Ronald Ibold, doing)
business as East Valley Commute)
for authority to increase fares)
for the transportation of passen-)
gers on regular scheduled routes)
in Santa Clara County under)
original Application No.)
Decision No. 85057 dated)
October 28, 1975 and Application)
No. 57729 dated 8 August 1978,)
Decision No. 89213, and PSC 1047.)

Application No. 59442
(Filed February 2, 1980)

O P I N I O N

Applicants Gary Bowen and Ronald Ibold, doing business as East Valley Commute, operate as a passenger stage corporation (PSC 1047) to provide service between points in Santa Clara County and the United Air Lines Maintenance Base at San Francisco International Airport. Applicants' operating authority was granted by Decision 89213 dated August 8, 1978 in Application 57729. The service is routed and scheduled so as to provide a convenient mass transit alternative to the private automobile for home-to-work transportation. The present passenger fares were authorized to applicants' predecessor operator on this route in 1975 and have not been raised since. Applicants request that the weekly fare be increased from \$12.50 to \$17.50 (and the daily fare be increased from \$2.50 to \$4.00) to offset increased operating costs, including fuel, oil and insurance. In support of its request, applicants allege that operating expenses for the current year are at a level of about \$9,200 above the year 1979, reflecting increases in the costs of tires and tubes, repairs, fuel and oil, insurance and parking fees. Applicants show a net income of \$2,989 for the business as a whole in the year 1979, and estimate a net income of \$6,742 for the year 1980 after these increased operating costs, in the event the requested fare relief is granted. Estimated revenue increase from this fare increase is \$12,950.

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Applicants also point out that similar commuter carriers have been authorized to charge fares that are comparable to, or greater than, the fares proposed in this application.

Notice of the filing of this application was listed in the Commission's Daily Calendar and, additionally, the Commission staff has notified public transit operators and the planning agencies of the receipt of this application pursuant to California Public Utilities Code Sections 730.3 and 730.5. No protest to the granting of the application has been received.

After consideration, the Commission finds that the increase in fares authorized by this decision are justified and reasonable. The proposed fares qualify for an exemption under the President's Guidelines for Wage and Price Increases since they are necessary to ensure the continued viability of this transportation service. A public hearing on the application is not necessary.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Gary Bowen and Ronald Ibold, doing business as East Valley Commute, are authorized to establish the increased fares as requested in the application. 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.

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3. In addition to the required posting and filing of tariffs, applicants shall give notice to the public by posting in their vehicles and terminals a printed explanation of the 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.

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

Dated JUN 3 1980, at San Francisco, California.

John E. Byrne
President
William L. Sturgeon
Richard W. Howell
Samuel M. Smith
Commissioners

Commissioner Claire T. Dadrick, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.