

ALJ/KLK/jva *

Decision 98-09-009 September 3, 1998

Mailed 9/3/98

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of Southern California Coach, a California Corporation, to establish a Zone of Rate Freedom (ZORF) for its airport passenger fares between its authorized service areas in Orange, Riverside, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties, to and from the John Wayne, Ontario, Los Angeles, and Long Beach Airports.

Application 98-04-024
(Filed April 6, 1998)

O P I N I O N

Summary

Southern California Coach (applicant), a California corporation, requests authority to establish a Zone of Rate Freedom (ZORF) between its authorized service points pursuant to Public Utilities (PU) Code § 454.2.

Discussion

Applicant is authorized by Decision (D.) 84-09-109, as amended by D.92-11-010, to operate as an "on-call" passenger stage corporation (PSC-1363) between Los Angeles International (LAX), Ontario International (ONT), Long Beach (LBG), and John Wayne (SNA) airports, and Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors (HRBRS), on the one hand, and certain points in the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino, on the other.

Applicant requests authority to establish a ZORF of 15% above and below its present adult one-way fares as published in its Local Passenger Tariff No.1, CA PUC 1. The present fares range between \$9 (Marina del Rey-LAX) and \$59 (San Clemente-LAX).

Applicant competes with other passenger stage corporations, taxi cabs, limousines, buses, public transit, and automobiles in its service area. The staff is of the opinion that the establishment of the ZORF of 15% above and below its present adult one-way fares is fair and reasonable.

Notice of filing of the application appeared in the Commission's Daily Calendar on April 21, 1998. The applicant notified the affected airports and cities.

In Resolution ALJ 176-2991 dated April 23, 1998, the Commission preliminarily categorized this application as ratesetting, and preliminarily determined that hearings were not necessary. No protests have been received. The Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division recommends that this application be granted. Given this status, public hearing is not necessary, and it is not necessary to alter the preliminary determinations made in Resolution ALJ 176-2991.

Findings of Fact

1. Applicant is authorized to operate as an "on-call" passenger stage corporation (PSC-1363), between LAX, ONT, LBG, and SNA airports, and HRBRS, on the one hand, and certain points in the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino, on the other.
2. Applicant requests authority to establish a ZORF of 15% above and below its present adult one-way fares, as published in its Local Passenger Tariff No. 1, CA PUC 1. The establishment of the ZORF is fair and reasonable.
3. Applicant competes with passenger stage corporations, taxi cabs, limousines, buses, and automobiles in its operations.
4. Public convenience and necessity require the proposed service.
5. No protests to the application have been filed.
6. A public hearing is not necessary.

7. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

Conclusions of Law

1. The application for a ZORF of 15% above and below its authorized fares as published and filed with this Commission should be granted.

2. Before applicant changes fares under the ZORF authorized below, applicant should give this Commission 10 days' notice.

3. The filing of ZORF fares should be accompanied by a tariff amendment showing the high and low ends of the ZORF between each service point and the then currently effective fare.

4. In order to make the proposed fare changes available as soon as possible, the following order should be effective on the date of this decision.

5. The application should be granted.

6. Since the matter is uncontested, the decision should be effective on the date it is signed.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Southern California Coach, (applicant) a California corporation, is authorized under Public Utilities (PU) Code § 454.2 to establish a Zone of Rate Freedom (ZORF) of 15% below and above its present authorized adult one-way fare as published in its Local Passenger Tariff No. 1

2. Applicant shall file a ZORF tariff in accordance with the application on not less than 10 days' notice to the Commission and to the public and subject to Commission approval. The ZORF shall expire unless exercised within 60 days after the effective date of this order.

3. Applicant may make changes within the ZORF by filing amended tariffs on not less than 10 days' notice to the Commission and to the public. The tariff shall include between each service points the authorized maximum and minimum fares and the fare to be charged.

4. In addition to posting and filing tariffs, applicant shall post notices explaining fare changes in its terminals and passenger-carrying vehicles. Such notices shall be posted at least five days before the effective date of the fare changes and shall remain posted for at least 30 days.

5. The application is granted as set forth above.

6. This proceeding is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated September 3, 1998, at San Francisco, California.

RICHARD A. BILAS

President

P. GREGORY CONLON

JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.

HENRY M. DUQUE

JOSIAH L. NEEPER

Commissioners