

ALJ/SHL/avs

**Mailed 9/3/98**

Decision 98-09-014 September 3, 1998

**ORIGINAL**

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the matter of the application of BALBOA ISLAND FERRY, seeking authority under Section 454 of the Public Utilities Code to publish tariff provisions resulting in increases.

Application 98-06-010  
(Filed June 4, 1998)

## OPINION

### Summary

Application for fare increase granted.

### Discussion

Balboa Island Ferry (Applicant) operates a ferry service for pedestrians and vehicles across Newport Bay to Balboa Island. It has provided this service since 1930. The last change in fares was pursuant to Decision (D.) 94-07-049. In three full years of operation under these fares Applicant has had an operating ratio of 104%, 99.2%, and 98.5%. Applicant projects net operating income of \$43,400 and an operating ratio of 95.5% for 1998 using existing fares for the first six months and the increased fares for the remainder of the year. Total revenue for 1998 is projected to be \$952,300. The following schedule illustrates the present and proposed fare structure:

**ONE-WAY FARES**  
**PRESENT    PROPOSED**

**PASSENGER FARES - PER PEDESTRIAN:**

Adult.....	\$ .35	\$ .50
Child (over 5 but under 12 years).....	.15	.25

**VEHICLE FARES - INCLUDES VEHICLE AND DRIVER:**

**Bicycle:**

With adult driver.....	\$ .50	\$ .65
With child driver.....	.30	.40
Motorscooter or Motorcycle.....	.60	.75
Passenger Automobile.....	1.00	1.25
Truck up to 5,000 pounds GVR.....	1.00	1.25
Vehicle over 21 feet in length.....	1.50	2.00
Vehicle not otherwise specified.....	1.50	2.00

**VEHICLES DISPLAYING FREQUENT USER IDENTIFICATION CARD:**

Frequent User Identification Card Valid for 1 calendar year).....	N/A	5.00
Passenger Automobile.....	N/A	1.00
Truck up to 5,000 pounds GVR.....	N/A	1.00

30 ride commuter card for Passenger Automobiles and trucks up to 5,000 pounds GVR.....	18.00	20.00
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**PASSENGERS IN VEHICLES DISPLAYING FREQUENT USER  
IDENTIFICATION CARD:**

Adult.....	N/A	.35
Child.....	N/A	.15

**PASSENGERS IN VEHICLES USING COMMUTER CARD:**

Adult.....	.35	.35
Child.....	.35	.25

- NOTE 1:** Fares are routinely collected during the 3 minute ferry crossing so to facilitate the collection process, fares are in multiples of five cents.
- NOTE 2:** Children under 5 years, accompanied by an adult will be carried free. Children under 5 years traveling alone will not be carried.
- NOTE 3:** Hand baggage carried aboard by passengers is transported free.
- NOTE 4:** Automobile and truck drivers may buy a frequent user identification card, valid for one calendar year, for the price of \$5.00. This card will then entitle the bearer to the reduced fares shown on page 3 for the vehicle and passengers.

The application states that it was served on the City Clerk and City Attorney of Newport Beach and on the County Counsel of Orange County. Notice of this application appeared on the Commission's Calendar on June 12, 1998. There have been no protests.

In Resolution ALJ 176-2995 dated June 18, 1998, the Commission preliminarily categorized this application as ratesetting, and preliminarily determined that hearings were necessary. No protests have been received. Applicant has made a sufficient showing that the proposed increases are justified. Given this status, public hearing is not necessary, and it is not necessary to alter the preliminary determinations made in Resolution ALJ 176-2995 by separate order.

**Findings of Fact**

1. Applicant operates a ferry service to Balboa Island for pedestrians and vehicles.
2. Applicant's most recent fares were authorized in 1994 by D.94-07-049.
3. The new fares proposed by Applicant would provide it with an operating ratio of 95.5%.
4. Service of the application for fare increase was made on representatives of the City of Newport and County of Orange, and was published in the Commission's Calendar. There have been no protests.

**Conclusions of Law**

1. Applicant has made a sufficient showing that the proposed increases are justified.
2. An operating ratio of 95.5% is reasonable for Applicant.
3. The proposed fares are reasonable and should be granted.

**O R D E R**

**IT IS ORDERED that:**

1. Balboa Island Ferry, a California corporation, is authorized to increase its fares for the transportation of persons and vehicles across Newport Bay between the Balboa Peninsula and Balboa Island, as proposed in this application.
2. Tariffs may be filed on or after the effective date of this order. They may become effective five days or more after the effective date of this order provided that the Commission and the public are given not less than five days' notice.
3. This authority shall expire unless exercised within 90 days after the effective date of this order.

4. In addition to the required posting and filing of tariffs, applicant shall give notice to the public by posting in applicant's operating vessels 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 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