

Decision 00-06-023 June 8, 2000

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of Rajen R. Chovatia dba Air-Transit Shuttle for an extension of authority to operate as a passenger stage corporation between points in San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Solano, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties and the San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose International Airports and to Establish a Zone of Rate Freedom.

Application 00-03-020
(Filed March 15, 2000)

O P I N I O N

Summary

This decision grants the application of Rajen R. Chovatia (Applicant), an individual, pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 1031 et seq., for an extension of his certificate of public convenience and necessity to operate as a passenger stage corporation (PSC), as defined in Pub. Util. Code § 226, and to establish a Zone of Rate Freedom (ZORF) pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 454.2.

Discussion

Applicant is currently authorized to operate an on-call PSC (PSC-10858) pursuant to Decision (D.) 97-05-052, between certain cities in Alameda County and Oakland International Airport (OAK).

Applicant requests authority to extend his on-call PSC-10858 to transport passengers and their baggage between points in the counties of San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Solano, Santa Clara, and San Mateo, on the one

hand, and San Francisco (SFO), OAK, and San Jose (SJC) International Airports, on the other hand. Applicant states that it will use the three vans presently utilized under his existing authority. The proposed fares, as listed in Exhibit D, range between \$10 (San Bruno - SFO) and \$245 (Dixon - SJC).

Applicant also requests authority to establish a ZORF of \$10 above and below any of the proposed fares of \$20 and under, and \$15 above and below the proposed fares above \$20, shown in Exhibit D, attached to the application. The minimum one-way adult fare is \$5. Applicant will compete with other PSCs, taxi cabs, limousines, buses, and automobiles in his service area. The establishment of the ZORF is fair and reasonable.

Notice of filing of the application appeared in the Commission's Daily Calendar on March 23, 2000. The applicant notified the affected airports and transit agencies. Applicant requests a waiver from the provisions of Rule 21 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure which require service of a notice of the application on all city and county officials within whose boundaries the passengers will be loaded or unloaded. Applicant served a notice to the seven involved counties and twenty-two cities in the service area. Applicant said that all parties that have an interest in Commission proceedings subscribe to or have access to the Commission's Daily Calendar. We shall exercise the discretion accorded to us by Rule 87 and grant the waiver requested by Applicant because he will be providing on-call service, not scheduled service.

In Resolution ALJ 176-3036 dated April 6, 2000, the Commission preliminarily categorized this application as ratesetting, and preliminarily determined that hearings were not necessary. No protests have been received. Given this status, public hearing is not necessary, and it is not necessary to alter the preliminary determinations made in Resolution ALJ 176-3036.

This is an uncontested matter in which the decision grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 311(g)(2), the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is being waived.

Findings of Fact

1. Applicant currently operates PSC-10858 between certain cities in Alameda County and OAK.
2. Applicant requests authority to extend his on-call PSC-10858 to transport passengers and their baggage between points in the counties of San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Solano, Santa Clara, and San Mateo, on the one hand, and SFO, OAK, and SJC, on the other hand.
3. Public convenience and necessity requires the proposed service.
4. Applicant requests authority to establish a ZORF of \$10 above and below any of the proposed fares of \$20 and under, and \$15 above and below the proposed fares above \$20, shown in Exhibit D, attached to the application. The minimum one-way adult fare is \$5.
5. Applicant will compete with PSCs, taxi cabs, limousines, buses, and automobiles in his operations. The ZORF is fair and reasonable.
6. No protests to the application have been filed.
7. A public hearing is not necessary.
8. Applicant requests a waiver of the notice requirements of Rule 21 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure as he has served notice to twenty-two cities and each of the affected airports, counties, public transit operators and the transportation planning agency in the service area.
9. 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. Public convenience and necessity has been demonstrated and the application should be granted.
2. The request for a ZORF should be granted.
3. Before applicant changes any fares under the ZORF authorized below, Applicant shall give this Commission at least 10 days' notice. The filing of ZORF fares should be shown in the tariff showing between each pair of service points the high and low ends of the ZORF and the then currently effective fare.
4. The request to waive the notice requirements of Rule 21 should be granted.
5. Since the matter is uncontested, the decision should be effective on the date it is signed.

Only the amount paid to the State for operative rights may be used in rate fixing. The State may grant any number of rights and may cancel or modify the monopoly feature of these rights at any time.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) granted to Rajen R. Chovatia (Applicant), an individual, authorizing him to operate as a passenger stage corporation (PSC), as defined in Pub. Util. Code § 226, to transport persons and their baggage, between the points and over the routes set forth in Appendix PSC-10858 by Decision 97-05-052 is amended, by replacing Original Pages 2 and 3, with First Revised Pages 2 and 3, subject to the conditions contained in the following paragraphs.

2. Applicant shall:

- a. File a written acceptance of this certificate within 30 days after this order is effective.
- b. Establish the authorized service and file tariffs and timetables within 120 days after this order is effective.
- c. Tariffs may be filed on or after the effective date of this order. It shall become effective ten days or more after the effective date of this order, provided that the Commission and the public are given not less than ten days' notice.
- d. Comply with General Orders Series 101, 104, and 158, and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) safety rules.
- e. Comply with the controlled substance and alcohol testing certification program pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 1032.1 and General Order Series 158.
- f. Maintain accounting records in conformity with the Uniform System of Accounts.
- g. Remit to the Commission the Transportation Reimbursement Fee required by Pub. Util. Code § 403 when notified by mail to do so.
- h. Comply with Pub. Util. Code §§ 460.7 and 1043, relating to the Workers' Compensation laws of this state.
- i. Enroll all drivers in the pull notice system as required by Section 1808.1 of the Vehicle Code.

3. Applicant is authorized under Pub. Util. Code § 454.2 to establish a ZORF of \$10 above and below any of the proposed fares of \$20 and under, and \$15 above and below the proposed fares above \$20, shown in Exhibit D, attached to the application. The minimum one-way adult fare is \$5.

4. 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 120 days after the effective date of this order.

5. 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 pair of service points the authorized maximum and minimum fares and the fare to be charged.

6. In addition to posting and filing tariffs, Applicant shall post notices explaining fare changes in his terminals and passenger-carrying vehicles. Such notices shall be posted at least ten days before the effective date of the fare changes and shall remain posted for at least thirty days.

7. Applicant is authorized to begin operations on the date that the Rail Safety and Carriers Division mails a notice to the Applicant that his evidence of insurance and other documents required by Ordering Paragraph 2 have been filed with the Commission and that the CHP has approved the use of Applicant's vehicles for service.

8. Before beginning service to any airport, Applicant shall notify the airport's governing body. Applicant shall not operate into or on airport property unless such operations are authorized by the airport's governing body.

9. The CPCN to extend his PSC-10858, granted herein, expires, unless exercised within 120 days after the effective date of this order.

10. The notice requirements of Rule 21 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure are waived as copies and notice of the application have been served upon parties that may have an interest in this proceeding.

11. The Application is granted as set forth above.

12. This proceeding is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated June 8, 2000, at San Francisco, California.

LORETTA M. LYNCH
President

HENRY M. DUQUE

JOSIAH L. NEEPER

RICHARD A. BILAS

CARL W. WOOD

Commissioners

SECTION I. GENERAL AUTHORIZATIONS, RESTRICTIONS, LIMITATIONS,
AND SPECIFICATIONS.

Rajen-Chovatia, an individual, by the certificate of public convenience and necessity granted by Decision 97-05-052 as revised by the decision noted in the margin, is authorized to transport passengers and their baggage on an "on-call" basis, between points and places as described in Section IIA and Section IIB, over and along the route described in Section III, subject, however, to the authority of this Commission to change or modify this authority at any time and subject to the following provisions:

- a. When route description is given in one direction, they apply to operation in either direction unless otherwise indicated.
- b. The term "on-call," as used, refers to service which is authorized to be rendered dependent on the demands of passengers. The tariffs and timetables shall show the conditions under which each authorized on-call service will be rendered.
- c. No passengers shall be transported except those having a point of origin or destination, as described in Section IIB.
- d. This certificate does not authorize the holder to conduct any operation on the property of or into any airport unless such operation is authorized by the airport authority involved.

Issued by California Public Utilities Commission.

*Revised by Decision 00-06-023, Application 00-03-020.

SECTION II. SERVICE AREA.

- A. *Points and places in the Counties of:
San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Solano, Santa Clara,
and San Mateo.

- B. The following airports:
 - *San Francisco International Airport.
 - *San Jose International Airport.
 - Oakland International Airport.

SECTION III. ROUTE DESCRIPTION.

Commencing from any point as described in Section IIA, then over the most convenient streets, expressways, and highways to the airports, as described in Section IIB.