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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALCETORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's own motion into Greyhound Bus Lines Inc.'s withdrawal of service in the absence of a request by the carrier to this Commission and a holding permitting such service withdrawal.

JUL 6 1990

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE NO. I. 90 07 003

ORIGINAL

ORDER INSTITUTING INVESTIGATION

Greyhound Bus Lines, Inc. (Greyhound) is a passenger stage corporation providing service between a number of points within California. We are advised, and a review of Greyhound's filed timetables confirms, that the carrier ceased operating service from San Francisco to Fort Bragg, via Cloverdale with numerous stops. The service apparently ceased on March 12, 1990. Concern has been expressed to the Commission about Fort Bragg and intermediate points having no scheduled bus service to connect with more urban areas, thereby causing a hardship on the elderly and others who cannot drive to seek medical treatment, conduct business, etc.

A review of Greyhound's latest filed timetables conducted by the Transportation Division discloses that Greyhound may have ceased serving other points.

Greyhound is in Chapter 11, corporate reorganization, and we understand that it took that step so it could continue operations, not start paring them back. The carrier's unilateral step to apparently halt service to Fort Bragg and other points gives us alarm. One of the purposes of the requirement to file an abandonment application is to allow affected riders, local governmental entities, regional transit planners and others a chance to explore any allegations regarding financial difficulties. That, in turn, can lead to constructive exploration of alternative services, subsidies and other arrangements that can either help the service in question continue or to help mitigate any adverse impact on the public.

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Sometimes alternatives cannot be found, but when a carrier unilaterally withdraws service it negates the chance for that process to operate.

We institute this investigation to order Greyhound to come forward at a hearing and explain what service it has withdrawn, and show cause with prepared testimony why it should not be ordered to immediately reinstate any such service pending the carrier's filing of an application to abandon service and our action on such an application.

This order is issued even though the subject has not been noticed on the public agenda of items for decision at our regularly scheduled meeting because the alleged abandonment of service, particularly in localities where no alternative transit is available, constitutes an emergency under Section of 306 of the Public Utilities Code. The continuing abandonment of service can pose potential hardship and extreme adverse impact to members of the public who must rely on Greyhound's common carrier service, and the prolonged nature of Greyhound's withdrawal of service is an emergency that deserves expeditious investigation and resolution.

IT IS ORDERED that,

- 1) An investigation is instituted to determine whether and to what extent Greyhound Bus Lines, Inc. (Greyhound) has withdrawn service within points in California unilaterally and without authorization from this Commission. Greyhound is the respondent in this investigation. Further, Greyhound is ordered to show cause through prepared testimony presented at a hearing why it should not be ordered to immediately restore service for any of the points within California where it has unilaterally withdrawn service without authorization.
- 2) A public hearing for the respondent to report on its level of service in California, and any withdrawal of service, and to show cause why any withdrawn service should not be ordered restored, will be held at 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, on ________, 1990 before Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)

 . In addition to the evidence presented by

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Greyhound, other parties may submit evidence on the issues germane to this investigation. Greyhound shall make its showing through the use of prepared testimony, mailing it to the ALJ, Director of the Transportation Division, and the General Counsel no later than 10 days before the scheduled hearing. Greyhound shall make its prepared testimony available upon request to interested parties.

3) The Executive Director shall have a copy of this Order Instituting Investigation served by registered mail on Greyhound. Also, the Transportation Division shall mail a copy of this order to parties who have written the Commission either protesting any withdrawal of service by Greyhound or who want notice of the date and location of any hearings on the topic.

This order is effective today.

Dated _____ JUL 6 1990 at San Francisco, California.

G. MITCHELL WILK
President
FREDERICK R. DUDA
STANLEY W. HULETT
JOHN B. OHANIAN
PATRICIA M. ECKERT
Commissioners

I CERTIFY THAT THIS DECISION WAS APPROVED BY THE ABOVE COMMISSIONERS TODAY

J. SHULMAN, Executive Director