

Decision 11-06-008 June 9, 2011

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Advance Shuttle Services LLC (PSC-20747) for authority to expand and extend its Passenger Stage Certificate to include service between the San Diego International Airport, San Diego Cruise Ship Terminal and the City of San Diego, and various points in the Counties of San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside & Imperial; and to establish a Zone of Rate Freedom.

Application 11-03-019
(Filed March 21, 2011)

D E C I S I O N

Summary

This decision grants the application of Advance Shuttle Services LLC (Applicant), a limited liability company, pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 1031 et seq., to expand its 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 currently is authorized by Decision (D.) 07-04-026 to transport passengers and their baggage on an on-call basis between certain points in San Diego County, on the one hand, and San Diego International Airport (SAN), on the other hand. The application requests authority to expand the PSC authority to include service between SAN, San Diego Cruise Ship Terminal, and other points in the City of San Diego, on the one hand, and points in Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego Counties, on the other hand.

Applicant states that passenger traffic between these points is increasing. The expansion of facilities at SAN that is now in progress should cause this growth in traffic to continue for the foreseeable future. Applicant advises that congestion at the airport is already excessive and difficult to control, and parking shortages occur during peak travel periods. Applicant indicates the proposed service will assist in reducing these problems. The service will be particularly responsive to passengers traveling to or from residential areas.

Applicant states it has the ability to operate the expanded PSC service. Its owner has 20 years' experience in the transportation industry as an operator of limousines and shuttle vans. Applicant has conducted PSC and charter-party services under Commission-issued authorities for approximately four years. A financial statement attached to the application as Exhibit F discloses assets of \$142,622, liabilities of \$898, and equity of \$141,724.

Fares for Applicant's existing and proposed services range between \$14 (San Diego - Cruise Ship Terminal) and \$290 (El Centro - SAN). Applicant requests authority to establish a ZORF of \$10 above and below the existing and proposed fares. The minimum fare will be \$5. Applicant will compete with other PSCs, taxicabs, charter sedans and limousines, public transit, and private automobiles in its service area. This highly competitive environment should result in Applicant pricing its services at a reasonable level. Many other PSCs have been granted ZORFs. The requested ZORF is generally consistent with the ZORFs held by other PSCs.

Notice of filing of the application appeared in the Commission's Daily Calendar on April 1, 2011. Applicant requests a waiver from the provisions of Rule 3.3(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure which require service of a copy of the application on every public transit operator operating in

any portion of the service territory and 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 of the application to three counties and two regional public transit operators. Applicant believes the Commission's Daily Calendar provides adequate notice to parties that may have an interest in the application. We shall exercise the discretion accorded to us by Rule 1.2 and grant the waiver requested by Applicant because it will be providing on-call service, not scheduled service, and service on every city, county, and public transit operator in the service territory would be burdensome.

In Resolution ALJ 176-3272, dated April 14, 2011, the Commission preliminarily categorized this application as ratesetting, and preliminarily determined that hearings were not necessary. No protest has been received. Given this status, public hearing is not necessary, and it is not necessary to alter the preliminary determinations made in Resolution ALJ 176-3272.

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.

Assignment of Proceeding

Richard Clark is the assigned Examiner in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. Applicant operates as an on-call PSC between certain points in San Diego County, on the one hand, and SAN, on the other hand.
2. The application requests authority to expand Applicant's PSC authority to include service between SAN, San Diego Cruise Ship Terminal, and other points in the City of San Diego, on the one hand, and points in Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego Counties, 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 its existing fares and the proposed fares for the expanded service. The minimum fare will be \$5.
5. Applicant will compete with PSCs, taxicabs, charter sedans and limousines, public transit, and private automobiles in its operations. The ZORF is fair and reasonable.
6. Applicant requests a waiver of the notice requirements of Rule 3.3(b) of the Rules of Practice and Procedure as it has served a notice of the application to three counties and two regional public transit operators in the service territory.
7. No protest to the application has been filed.
8. A public hearing is not necessary.
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 to waive the notice requirements of Rule 3.3(b) should be granted.
3. The request for a ZORF should be granted.
4. Before Applicant changes any fares under the ZORF authorized below, Applicant should give this Commission at least ten days' notice. The tariff should show the high and low ends of the ZORF and the then currently effective fare between each pair of service points.
5. 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. The certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) granted to Advance Shuttle Services LLC (Applicant), a limited liability company, authorizing it to operate as a passenger stage corporation (PSC), as defined in Pub. Util. Code § 226, to transport passengers and their baggage between the points and over the routes set forth in Appendix PSC-20747 of Decision 07-04-026, is revised by replacing Original Page 3 with First Revised Page 3, subject to conditions contained in the following paragraphs.

2. Applicant shall:

- a. File a written acceptance of the revised certificate within 30 days after this decision is effective.
- b. Establish the authorized expanded service and file tariffs and timetables within 120 days after this decision is effective.
- c. File tariffs on or after the effective date of this decision. They shall become effective ten days or more after the effective date of this decision, provided that the Commission and the public are given not less than ten days' notice.
- d. Comply with General Orders Series 101 and 158, and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) safety rules.
- e. Comply with the Commission's controlled substance and alcohol testing certification program pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 1032.1 and General Order Series 158.
- f. Remit to the Commission the Transportation Reimbursement Fee required by Pub. Util. Code § 423 when notified by mail to do so.
- g. Comply with Pub. Util. Code §§ 460.7 and 1043, relating to the Workers' Compensation laws of this state.

- h. Enroll all drivers in the pull notice system as required by Vehicle Code § 1808.1.
3. Applicant is authorized under Pub. Util. Code § 454.2 to establish a zone of rate freedom (ZORF) of \$10 above and below its existing fares and the proposed fares described in the application. The minimum fare will be \$5.
4. Applicant shall file a ZORF tariff in accordance with the application on not less than ten days' notice to the Commission and to the public. The ZORF shall expire unless exercised within 120 days after the effective date of this decision.
5. Applicant may make changes within the ZORF by filing amended tariffs on not less than ten days' notice to the Commission and to the public. The tariff shall include the authorized maximum and minimum fares and the fare to be charged between each pair of service points.
6. 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 ten days before the effective date of the fare changes and shall remain posted for at least 30 days.
7. Applicant is authorized to begin operations on the date that the Consumer Protection and Safety Division mails a notice to Applicant that its 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 revised CPCN to operate as PSC-20747, granted herein, expires unless exercised within 120 days after the effective date of this decision.

10. The notice requirements of Rule 3.3(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure are waived as notice of the application has 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 decision is effective today.

Dated June 9, 2011, at San Francisco, California.

MICHAEL R. PEEVEY
President
TIMOTHY ALAN SIMON
MICHEL PETER FLORIO
CATHERINE J.K. SANDOVAL
MARK J. FERRON
Commissioners

* SECTION II. SERVICE AREA.

- A. Points in the Counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego.
- B. San Diego International Airport, San Diego Cruise Ship Terminal, and all other points in the City of San Diego.

SECTION III. ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

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