Proposed

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Resolution 77-57
October 20, 1977

WHEREAS, the Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SP) is seeking authorization from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to terminate passenger service between San Jose and San Francisco;

WHEREAS, termination of such service will require approximately 7,500 weekday commuters to seek alternative means of transportation between their homes and place of work;

WHEREAS, public transit facilities and the major traffic arteries along the SP corridor, U.S. 101 and Interstate 280, are already either inadequate, overcrowded, or both;

WHEREAS, the displacement of SP passengers from trains to other vehicles could result in an increase of up to 6,000 daily automobile commute trips during peak morning and evening traffic hours;

WHEREAS, these additional commute trips would contribute additional emissions of approximately 1.76 tons per day of hydrocarbons (HC), 9.67 tons per day of carbon monoxide (CO), 0.40 tons per day of oxides of nitrogen (NOx), and 0.04 tons per day of particulates to the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin where light-duty passenger vehicles in 1975 accounted for 34% of NOx, 62% of CO and 31% of HC emissions;

WHEREAS, the Air Resources Board has determined that state and federal ambient air quality standards for HC, NO2, CO, and oxidant (Ox), which are based on considerations of public health and welfare, are presently exceeded in the area served by SP, the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin (SFBAAB), which as a result thereof will cause the air basin to be designated as a nonattainment area;

WHEREAS, the air quality of areas downwind of the SFBAAB (San Benito and San Joaquin Valley Counties) is degraded by the transport of air pollutants from the SFBAAB;

WHEREAS, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties of San Joaquin Valley receive transported air pollutants from the SFBAAB and are likely to be designated nonattainment areas;

WHEREAS, applicable state and federal law and policy are designed to rollback air pollution levels in nonattainment areas rather than increase these levels as termination of SP service will do;

WHEREAS, reduced vehicle use will assist in reducing the automotive pollutant levels in order to achieve compliance with ambient air quality standards;

WHEREAS, the Air Resources Board is charged with the preparation of a state implementation plan (SIP) by July 1, 1979 which must contain measures to assure the attainment of ambient air quality standards in nonattainment areas by 1982, or in the case of CO and Ox, with approval from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), by 1987;

WHEREAS, failure of the ARB to promulgate an effective SIP by 1979 could result in promulgation of a substitute plan by EPA, denial of federal grant funds for housing, sewage facilities, and transportation projects, and a prohibition on the construction of any major industrial source of air pollution in the area with associated adverse economic effects;

WHEREAS, termination of SP commuter service would adversely affect the ability of the ARB to prepare the 1979 plan for attainment and maintenance of the ambient air quality standards, and is inconsistent with the present SIP in that it would interfere with the attainment of ambient air quality standards, and is therefore contrary to state and federal policy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Air Resources Board (ARB) respectfully urges the Public Utilities Commision (PUC) to find that termination of passenger service between San Jose and San Francisco by Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SP) is contrary to national, state, and regional policy as well as to the health and welfare of the residents of the San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties and downwind areas, and that the continuation of such service is clearly required by public convenience and necessity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that based upon such findings, the PUC deny the application of SP for the termination of such passenger service;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Officer of the ARB shall transmit a copy of this resolution forthwith to Administrative Law Judge John B. Weiss, and to all parties of record in the matter of the application of SP for the discontinuance of passenger service between San Jose and San Francisco (PUC # A57289) and request that it be marked as an exhibit and entered into evidence in the proceedings.