

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

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Complaint of Jan Book

Docket No. C2005-2

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DECLARATION OF ROBERT W. FIELD, JR.

1. My name is Robert W. Field, Jr. I am an Operations Specialist in Processing Operations in the Network Operations Management department at United States Postal Service (USPS) headquarters, in Washington, DC. I have served in this position since 1993. The functions of the Processing Operations organization include the administration and oversight of national mail processing policies and programs. As an Operations Specialist, my responsibilities include facility and network realignment support and the coordination of headquarters review of any Area Mail Processing (AMP) proposals. I have worked in various positions in the Postal Service related to mail processing operations. My postal employment began in 1974.

2. My office was responsible for assisting the Senior Vice-President, Operations, United States Postal Service headquarters, in review of the Area Mail Processing (AMP) plan to consolidate the operations of the postal Processing & Distribution Center (P&DC) in Marina del Ray, California, and to transfer those operations to nearby P&DCs in Los Angeles and Long Beach, California. That decision was approved by the Senior Vice-President on January 10, 2005, and publicly announced on January 14, 2005.

3. Area Mail Processing (AMP) plans routinely developed within the Postal Service analyze the feasibility of relocating processing and distribution operations (and

their support functions) from one facility to another. An AMP study may be initiated whenever deemed appropriate by the manager of a postal Processing & Distribution Center (P&DC) or the District office to which that manager reports. AMP study results are forwarded from the District office to the Area office, where they are reviewed by the Vice-President, Area Operations. Recommendations are then forwarded to the Senior Vice-President, Operations, at headquarters, who coordinates a review with other functional offices at L'Enfant Plaza. Notwithstanding changes in the postal management organizations structure over the years, AMP proposals, such as the one for the Marina P&DC, have been developed and reviewed internally in this manner for at least several decades.

4. For administrative purposes, the United States Postal Service divides the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and island territories into 9 administrative Areas. Each Area is divided further into Customer Service Districts. The Pacific Area comprises the States of California, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii. There are ten Customer Service Districts in the Pacific Area. Each of these Districts is responsible for managing and providing postal services to the customers in the 3-digit ZIP Code areas within its service area. The Los Angeles District is responsible for the 900-905 3-digit ZIP Code areas. It is adjacent to the Van Nuys District (ZIP Code areas 910-916, and 930-935) and the Santa Ana District (ZIP Code areas 906-908, 917-918, and 926-928). For a graphic depiction of the Pacific Area, its ten Customer Service Districts, and the 3-digit ZIP Code areas for which each of those Districts is responsible, please refer to the Attachment to this Declaration.

5. The city of Los Angeles and those suburbs that can be regarded as part of its metropolitan area extend beyond the Los Angeles District and into adjacent portions of the neighboring Van Nuys and Santa Ana Districts. Including the Marina P&DC, there currently are ten Processing & Distribution Centers/Facilities serving the three

Districts combined. Seven of these facilities, which can be said to serve the Los Angeles metropolitan area, were listed in ¶11 of the April 27, 2005 Answer filed by the Postal Service in this case. The three Van Nuys District P&DCs (not listed in the Answer) which bring the total to 10 facilities for the three Districts are located in the California cities of Bakersfield, Oxnard and Santa Barbara.

6. Two P&DCs currently serve the 900-905 Los Angeles District. The Los Angeles P&DC serves the 900-901 ZIP Code areas and the Marina P&DC serves the 902-905 ZIP Code areas. The objective of the consolidation of the Marina plant is to take advantage of the economies associated with the transfer of personnel, equipment and operations to the adjacent P&DCs in Los Angeles (16 miles away) and Long Beach (25 miles away). The 902-904 ZIP Code service areas will be absorbed by the Los Angeles P&DC; the 905 ZIP Code service area will be absorbed by the Long Beach P&DC in the Santa Ana District.

7. Generally, each P&DC serves as the mail processing hub for downstream post offices, stations, branches and retail units. There are no plans to close any downstream postal facilities in conjunction with the consolidation and transfer of processing operations from Marina to Los Angeles and Long Beach. The downstream post offices, stations and branches that historically have been under the supervision of the Marina P&DC will be linked either to the Los Angeles P&DC or the Long Beach P&DC.

8. The functions of the Marina P&DC Business Mail Entry Unit are being absorbed primarily by the Los Angeles Airport Station 90009. Caller service is being moved to the Hillcrest Station 90301 or to an office of the customer's choice. The Alla Vista postal retail unit is on the Marina property. The Postal Service plans to retain retail window service on the Marina property as part of any commercial redevelopment of the property.

9. Relocation of postal processing functions has an impact on transportation times for mail traveling between its originating and destinating mail processing plants. These changes can lead to realignment of the service standard for particular origin-destination 3-digit ZIP Code pairs. Closure of the Marina P&DC and transfer of its mail processing operations is expected to result in realignment of service standards for some First-Class Mail and Priority Mail originating and destinating in what are now the Marina P&DC 902-905 3-digit ZIP Code service areas. Of the 849,106 ZIP Code area origin-destination pairs in the nationwide First-Class Mail service standard matrix, only 28 would be affected. The transfer of operations from the Marina P&DC is expected to result in 12 3-digit ZIP Code pairs currently linked to the Marina service area being upgraded from 2-day to overnight First-Class Mail service and 16 pairs being downgraded from 2-day to 3-day service. For Priority Mail, three originating and nine destinating ZIP Code pairs currently in the Marina P&DC service area will have their service standards upgraded from 2-day to overnight service.

10. Contrary to what is alleged in ¶¶9 and 11 of the Complaint, the Postal Service currently has no plan to consolidate and transfer the operations of the Long Beach P&DC. However, like every other P&DC in the postal network, Long Beach is not exempt from future AMP analysis.

I hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true to the best of my information, knowledge and belief.

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Robert W. Field, Jr.

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, SW  
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May 17, 2005

# Pacific Area

## Customer Service Districts

