

November 29, 2011

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

I am sending the following attachments to my Participant Statement filed November 23, 2011. These attachments are referenced in my statement; however, I was unable to attachment them due to technical difficulties.

Sincerely,
Bill Nunes
Sierra County Supervisor
District #3





SIERRA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors
P.O. Drawer D
Downieville, California 95936
Telephone (530) 289-3295
Fax (530) 289-2830



August 17, 2011

Terry Felix
Facilities Requirements Specialist
1001 E Sunset Road, Room 1015
Las Vegas, NV 89199-9991

Ms. Felix:

My name is Bill Nunes and I am the county supervisor who represents Calpine, CA, on the Sierra County Board of Supervisors.

Both the Board of Supervisors and I, as the county supervisor representing Calpine and Sattley, have written letters to the Postal Service expressing our reasons for opposing the closure of the Sattley/Calpine Post Office in Calpine.

This postal facility is located in the Eastern Sierra County Community Hall which is owned by Sierra County. At our Board of Supervisors meeting yesterday, I was authorized by the Board to contact the Postal Service about a possible reduction in the amount of rent paid to Sierra County for the Post Office in Calpine as one possible means of helping to keep the office open.

We would like to meet with Postal Service representatives to discuss the Post Office in Calpine, a possible reduction in the rent and other alternatives to a complete closure of that site. As landlords for the Post Office in Calpine, we would like to make suggestions and explore all possible alternatives.

I can be contacted at P.O. Box 118, Calpine, CA 96124; email: nunes@digitalpath.net or at 530-994-3222.

Sincerely,

Bill Nunes
Sierra County Supervisor, District #3

Cc: Loretta Kirkpatrick
Manager Consumer Affairs

Lee Adams
District No. 1
P.O. Box 1
Downieville, CA 95936

Peter W. Huebner
District No. 2
P.O. Box 349
Sierra City, CA 96125

Bill Nunes
District No. 3
P.O. Box 118
Calpine, CA 96124

David "Dave" Goicoechea
District No. 4
P.O. Box 883
Loyalton, CA 96118

Scott A. Schlefstein
District No. 5
P.O. Box 192
Loyalton, CA 96118

SIERRA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors
P.O. Drawer D
Downieville, California 95936
Telephone (530) 289-3295
Fax (530) 289-2830



September 23, 2011

Yvette L. Berry
United States Postal Service

Dear Ms. Berry:

The Sierra County Board of Supervisors has authorized me to submit the following proposal in an effort to encourage the United States Postal Service to keep a postal facility open in Calpine, California. Sierra County owns the building at 131 County Road in Calpine, a portion of which is currently occupied by the Sattley/Calpine Post Office.

The Postal Service currently has a lease with Sierra County that runs through August 31, 2015, and calls for monthly rent in the amount of \$1,000. Sierra County is willing to amend the lease to lower the rent to \$600 per month if the Postal Service will agree to keep the Post Office open for the remainder of the lease term. The County also will continue to plow the snow on the road leading to the Post Office, the Post Office parking lot, and pedestrian access to the front door.

The Postal Service has indicated that it is considering locating outdoor postal boxes on the porch of the county building in order to close the Post Office. This also would require a lease with Sierra County and we would prefer to leave the boxes where they are inside the building. Residents could access their mail and other postal services indoors, in a lighted facility.

The Postal Service could realize a savings in Calpine with the lowered rent and also by reducing the hours the window is open.

Sincerely,

Bill Nunes
Sierra County Supervisor, District #3

Lee Adams
District No. 1
P.O. Box 1
Downieville, CA 95936

Peter W. Huebner
District No. 2
P.O. Box 349
Sierra City, CA 96125

Bill Nunes
District No. 3
P.O. Box 118
Calpine, CA 96124

David "Dave" Goicoechea
District No. 4
P.O. Box 883
Loyalton, CA 96118

Scott A. Schlefstein
District No. 5
P.O. Box 192
Loyalton, CA 96118

Date of Posting: 06/29/2011

Posting Round Date:

JUN 29 2011

Date of Removal: 08/30/2011

Removal Round Date:

**PROPOSAL TO CLOSE
THE SATTLE, CA POST OFFICE
AND EXTEND
SERVICE BY HIGHWAY CONTRACT ROUTE SERVICE**

DOCKET NUMBER 1380842 - 96124

I. RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY POSTAL NEEDS

The Postal Service is proposing to close the Sattley, CA Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by highway contract route service under the administrative responsibility of the Sierraville Post Office, located 13 miles away.

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster retired on July 01, 2009. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office. Postmaster level and office service hours are determined by a workload analysis which includes the number of deliveries and revenue.

The office is being studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reasons: Decline in mail volume. We will continue to provide effective service through the Sierraville Main Post Office.

The Sattley Post Office, an EAS-11 level, provides service from 08:30 - 11:30 - 12:00 - 17:00 Monday - Friday , Closed Saturday and lobby hours of 24/7 on Monday - Friday and 24/7 on Saturday to 165 post office box or general delivery customers and 18 delivery customers. Retail services included the sale of stamps, stamped paper, and money orders; special services such as Registered Mail, Certified Mail, Insured Mail, COD Mail, and Express Mail services; and the acceptance and dispatch of all classes of mail.

The retail window averaged 26 transaction(s) accounting for 32 minute(s) of retail workload daily. With minimal workload, the Postal Service feels that effective and regular service will be provided by highway contract route service. Office receipts for the last 3 years were: \$21,187 (55 revenue units) in FY 2008; \$23,233 (61 revenue units) in FY 2009; and \$22,097 (58 revenue units) in FY 2010. There were one permit mailer(s) or postage meter customer(s).

On May 05, 2011, representatives from the Postal Service were available at the Sattley Post Office to answer questions and provide information to customers. 72 customer(s) attended the meeting.

On April 18, 2011, 183 questionnaires were distributed to delivery customers of the Sattley Post Office. Questionnaires were also available over the counter for retail customers at the Sattley Post Office. 43 questionnaires were returned. Responses regarding the proposed alternate service were as follows: 2 favorable, 25 unfavorable, and 16 expressed no opinion.

A petition supporting the retention of the Sattley Post Office was received on June 24, 2011, with 59 signatures. If this proposal is implemented, delivery and retail services will be provided by the Sierraville Post Office, an EAS-11 level office. Window service hours at the Sierraville Post Office are from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, and 9:30 am to 11:30 pm on Saturday. There are 182 post office boxes available.

Retail service is also available at the Clio Post Office an EAS-13 level office, located six miles away. Window service hours at Clio Post Office are from 7:45 am to 1:15 pm 2 pm to 4 pm, Monday through Friday and closed on Saturday. There are 174 post office boxes available for rent.

The following concerns were expressed from questionnaires, the community meeting, from customer letters, on the petition, and from the congressional inquiry:

- Concern:** Customers expressed concern over the apparent lack of interest by the Postal Service for the needs of the community.

Response: The Postal Service is required to provide each community with regular and effective service, using the most cost efficient means possible. The proposed alternate delivery service will meet the mailing and service needs of the community in a more cost effective manner.
- Concern:** Customers expressed concern over the dependability of rural route service.

Response: Rural letter carriers perform a vital function in the United States Postal Service serving thousands of families and businesses in rural and suburban areas while travelling millions of miles daily. Rural letter carriers are highly respected by the American public. This respect has been earned by many years of dedication to the Postal Service and to postal customers. During national and local emergencies, including prolonged periods of extreme weather conditions, rural carriers have demonstrated great responsibility in providing mail service to postal customers. Rural carriers are required to serve the route expeditiously each day.
- Concern:** Customers were concerned about having to travel to another post office for service

Response: The customer expressed a concern about having to travel to another post office for service. Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.

4. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about having to travel to another Post Office for service.
- Response:** Services provided at the Post Office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another Post Office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.
5. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about obtaining services from the carrier.
- Response:** The rural carrier provides all the services that are available at the Post Office with the exception of PO Box service and bulk mail acceptance. This includes stamp sales, package pick up, special services and money order sales.
6. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about senior citizens.
- Response:** Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to roadside mailboxes or Centralized Box Units. Customers do not have to make a special trip to the Post Office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the administrative postmaster for more information.
7. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about a change of address.
- Response:** The customer expressed a concern about a change in address. Customers will be assigned a 911 address. The new address will continue to use the community name and ZIP Code. Mail will be forwarded in accordance with postal regulations, and change of address forms are available from the Postal Service to assist customers in notifying correspondents of the change.
8. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about mail security.
- Response:** The customer expressed a concern about the security of mail. Customers may place a lock on their mailboxes. The mailbox must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The Postal Service does not open mailboxes which are locked and does not accept keys for this purpose.
9. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about the mailboxes being damaged by snowplows.
- Response:** The customer expressed a concern about the mailboxes being damaged by snowplows. Please contact the administrative postmaster to determine the proper mailbox location and installation method that would help alleviate this concern. Placing the mailbox on a long, swinging, horizontal pipe is one method often used to avoid damage by snowplows.
10. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about vandalism of their mail box.
- Response:**

Some advantages of the proposal are:

1. The rural or contract delivery carrier may provide retail services, alleviating the need to go to the post office. Stamps by Mail order forms are provided for customer convenience.
2. Customers opting for carrier service will have 24-hour access to their mail.
3. Savings for the Postal Service contribute in the long run to stable postage rates and savings for customers.
4. CBUs can offer the security of individually locked mail compartments. Parcel lockers provide convenient parcel delivery for customers.
5. Customers opting for carrier service will not have to pay post office box fees.
6. Saves time and energy for customers who drive to the post office to pick up mail.

Some disadvantages of the proposal are:

1. The loss of a retail outlet and a postmaster position in the community. Retail services may be provided by the rural or contract delivery carrier.
2. Meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier at the box to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions.
3. A change in the mailing address. The community name will continue to be used in the new address. A carrier route address will be assigned.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service concludes this proposal will provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to the community.

II. EFFECT ON COMMUNITY

Sattley is an unincorporated community located in Sierra County. The community is administered politically by Sierra County. Police protection is provided by the Sierra County Sheriff Office. Fire protection is provided by the Calpine Volunteer Fire Department. The community is comprised of retired, self employed, forest service, loggers, ranchers, and those who commute to work at nearby communities and work in local businesses.

Businesses and organizations include: Sierra County Waterworks Citizens Allianz for Property Rights Calpine Improvement Association Calpine Fire Department Sierra County Fire Safe Council , Premo Construction The Gold Rush Gallery Sierra Valley Trading Company Chapmans Sharp Crosscut Saws McDonald Enterprises Wild Hair Wedding Sierra Valley Lodge Sierra County Prospects Driscoll Construction Alpine Concrete & Pumping Butler Construction Nevasoft Inc Babs Roder Craft and Gift Store . Residents may travel to nearby communities for other supplies and services.

Nonpostal services provided at the Sattley Post Office will be available at the Sierraville Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Sierraville Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

The following nonpostal concerns were expressed from questionnaires, the community meeting, on the petition, and on the congressional inquiry:

1. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about the loss of a gathering place and an information center.
Response: Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the other businesses, churches and residences in town.
2. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about growth in the community
Response: The customer expressed a concern about growth in the community. The growth of a community does not depend on the location of a post office. Based on information obtained by the Postal Service, it was determined that there has been minimal growth in the area in recent years. Carrier service will be able to accommodate future growth
3. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about senior citizens
Response: The customer expressed a concern about senior citizens. Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to Customers do not have to make a special trip to the post office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the administrative postmaster for more information.
4. **Concern:** You were concerned about having to travel to another post office for service

Response:

The customer expressed a concern about having to travel to another post office for service. Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.

Based on the information obtained in the course of this discontinuance study, the Postal Service concludes this proposal will not adversely affect the community.

III. EFFECT ON EMPLOYEES

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster retired on July 01, 2009. The noncareer postmaster relief (PMR) may be separated from the Postal Service. No other Postal Service employee will be adversely affected. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office.

IV. ECONOMIC SAVINGS

The Postal Service estimates an annual savings of \$ 55,908 with a breakdown as follows:

Postmaster Salary (EAS-11, No COLA)	\$ 32,890
Fringe Benefits @ 33.5%	\$ 11,018
Annual Lease Costs	<u>+ \$ 12,000</u>
Total Annual Costs	\$ 55,908
Less Annual Cost of Replacement Service	<u>- \$ 0</u>
Total Annual Savings	<u>\$ 55,908</u>

V. OTHER FACTORS

The Postal Service has identified no other factors for consideration.

VI. SUMMARY

The Postal Service is proposing to close the Sattley, CA Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by highway contract route service under the administrative responsibility of the Sierraville Post Office, located 13 miles away.

The postmaster retired on July 01, 2009. If the office has a noncareer PMR(s), they may be separated from the Postal Service; however, attempts will be made to reassign the employee(s) to a nearby facility. No other employee(s) will be adversely affected. Post office workload has declined. Effective and regular service will continue to be provided by highway contract route service.

The Sattley Post Office provided delivery and retail service to 165 PO Box or general delivery customers and 18 delivery route customers. The daily retail window transactions averaged 26. There are one permit mailers or postage meter customers.

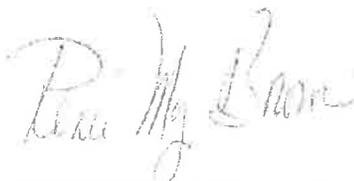
There will no longer be a retail outlet in the community. However, delivery and retail services may be available from a rural or contract delivery carrier, which could alleviate the need to travel to a post office for service. The Postal Service will save an estimated \$55,908 annually. A disadvantage to some may be in meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions with a rural or contract delivery carrier.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service has determined that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and this proposal is warranted.

VII. NOTICES

- A. Support Materials. Copies of all materials upon which this proposal is based are available for public inspection at the Sattley Post Office, Clio Post Office and Sierraville Post Office during normal office hours.
- B. This is a proposal. It is not a final determination to close this post office. If a final determination is made to close this post office, after public comments on this proposal are received and taken into account, a notice of that final determination will be posted in this office.

The final determination will contain instructions on how affected customers may appeal that decision to the Postal Regulatory Commission. Any such appeal must be received by the commission within 30 days of the posting of the final determination.



RENEE BROWN
Manager, Post Office Operations

06/29/2011
Date

I. RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY POSTAL NEEDS

The Postal Service is issuing the final determination to close the Sattley, CA Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by highway contract route service under the administrative responsibility of the ~~Clio~~ ^{Portola} Post Office, located 18 miles away.

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster retired on July 01, 2009. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office. Postmaster level and office service hours are determined by a workload analysis which includes the number of deliveries and revenue.

The office was studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reasons: Decline in mail volume. We will continue to provide effective service through the Sierraville Main Post Office.

The Sattley Post Office, an EAS-11 level, provides service from 08:30 - 11:30 - 12:00 - 17:00 Monday - Friday, Closed Saturday and lobby hours of 24/7 on Monday - Friday and 24/7 on Saturday to 165 post office box or general delivery customers and 18 delivery customers. Retail services included the sale of stamps, stamped paper, and money orders; special services such as Registered Mail, Certified Mail, Insured Mail, COD Mail, and Express Mail services; and the acceptance and dispatch of all classes of mail.

The retail window averaged 26 transaction(s) accounting for 32 minute(s) of retail workload daily. With minimal workload, the Postal Service feels that effective and regular service will be provided by highway contract route service. Office receipts for the last 3 years were: \$21,187 (55 revenue units) in FY 2008; \$23,233 (61 revenue units) in FY 2009; and \$22,097 (58 revenue units) in FY 2010. There were one permit mailer(s) or postage meter customer(s).

On May 05, 2011, representatives from the Postal Service were available at the Sattley Post Office to answer questions and provide information to customers. 72 customer(s) attended the meeting.

On April 18, 2011, 183 questionnaires were distributed to delivery customers of the Sattley Post Office. Questionnaires were also available over the counter for retail customers at the Sattley Post Office. 43 questionnaires were returned. Responses regarding the proposed alternate service were as follows: 2 favorable, 25 unfavorable, and 16 expressed no opinion.

A petition supporting the retention of the Sattley Post Office was received on June 24, 2011, with 59 signatures.

When this final determination is implemented, delivery and retail services will be provided by the Clio Post Office, an EAS-13 level office. Window service hours at the Clio Post Office are from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, and 9:30 am to 11:30 pm on Saturday. There are 182 post office boxes available.

The proposal to close the Sattley Post Office was posted with an invitation for comment at the Sattley Post Office and Clio Post Office from June 29, 2011 to August 30, 2011. The following additional concerns were received during the proposal posting period:

1. **Concern:**

Customers expressed concern over the apparent lack of interest by the Postal Service for the needs of the community.

Response:

The Postal Service is required to provide each community with regular and effective service, using the most cost efficient means possible. The proposed alternate delivery service will meet the mailing and service needs of the community in a more cost effective manner.

2. **Concern:**

Customers expressed concern over the dependability of rural route service.

Response:

Rural letter carriers perform a vital function in the United States Postal Service serving thousands of families and businesses in rural and suburban areas while traveling millions of miles daily. Rural letter carriers are highly respected by the American public. This respect has been earned by many years of dedication to the Postal Service and to postal customers. During national and local emergencies, including prolonged periods of extreme weather conditions, rural carriers have demonstrated great responsibility in providing mail service to postal customers. Rural carriers are required to serve the route expeditiously each day.

3. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about having to travel to another post office for service

Response:

The customer expressed a concern about having to travel to another post office for service. Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.