



California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

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PRESS RELEASE

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CPUC INVESTIGATIONS RESULT IN ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AND FINES IMPOSED ON VARIOUS LIMOUSINES, SHUTTLES, AND BUS COMPANIES – 2nd QUARTER 2015

SAN FRANCISCO, July 20, 2015 – The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), in its ongoing commitment to consumer protection, took a number of actions in the second quarter of 2015 to protect consumers from illegally operating passenger carriers.

The CPUC took the following enforcement actions against limousine, bus, and shuttle companies for violations of the Public Utilities Code and CPUC rules and regulations, including General Orders (GO) 115-F and 157-D:

Criminal Filings

- **Fox Express LLC, a California Limited Liability Corporation doing business as (dba) Fox Express (PSC 21536; Case # M094877):** CPUC staff submitted a report requesting the San Diego District Attorney's Office file a misdemeanor complaint against this company for operating without workers' compensation insurance coverage. On April 15, 2015, the San Diego County District Attorney's Office charged the defendants with a count of Labor Code 3700, failure to secure workers compensation insurance. On May 13, 2015, the defendant, Freddy Polanco of Fox Express, pled guilty at arraignment to a count of Labor Code 3700.5 and a count of Public Utilities Code 5411. Polanco was sentenced to 3 years of summary probation, ordered to serve one day of custody, ordered to obey all laws and Labor Code requirements, including the purchase and maintenance of proper workers' compensation insurance coverage, ordered to obey all Public Utilities Code requirements, ordered to pay \$3,500 in restitution to the CDI workers' compensation fraud fund, and a \$10,000 fine was imposed but stayed pending probation.
- **LPB Inc. and David Eduardo Leon CEO dba Leon Party Bus, Downey (unlicensed; Case PSG 3804; Case #15C00606):** CPUC Staff submitted a report requesting the Orange County District Attorney's Office file a misdemeanor complaint against this company for operating and advertising without CPUC authority. On May 27, 2015, the Orange County

District Attorney's Office filed a 3-count misdemeanor complaint in Central Orange County Superior Court for violations of Public Utilities Code 5371 (1 count), Public Utilities Code 5412 (1 count) for operating and advertising without CPUC authority, and Business and Professions code 16240 (1 count) for operating without a valid license. A hearing was held on June 4, 2015, and the defendant pled not guilty. The case was set for pretrial on July 9, 2015.

- **Michal Alaniz, an individual dba Joshua Tree Airport Shuttle and Palm Springs Airport Shuttle (unlicensed; Case PSG 3909; DA-15-35255):** On June 30, 2015, CPUC staff submitted a report requesting the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office file a misdemeanor complaint against this company for advertising without CPUC authority pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 5414.5. The case is pending assignment to a Deputy District Attorney.

Administrative Citations

Twenty-three companies were cited and fined a total of \$95,000 for one or more of these violations:

1. Advertised a revoked permit number.
2. Failed to enroll and/or pre-employment test drivers in a mandatory drug and alcohol program.
3. Failed to enroll drivers in DMV Pull Notice program.
4. General Order 157-D violation (failed to maintain a current equipment list, no sub-carrier agreement, or incomplete waybills).
5. Operated without a valid authority (suspended or unlicensed).
6. Operated vehicles that are not insured at the required minimum level of public liability and property damage insurance.
7. Failed to properly report gross revenue earned.
8. Failing to respond to consumer complaints.

Companies cited:

1. CSI Extradition LLC dba Court Services Inc., Manteca (TCP 22047)
2. AVM Transportation LLC dba Black Tie Car Services, Fresno (TCP 30959)
3. Fast Pass Limo LLC, Cathedral City (TCP 34629)
4. LPA Transportation LLC, Desert Hot Springs (TCP 31958)
5. Desert Limo LLC, Palm Springs (TCP 31958)
6. Desert Limos Inc., Palm Desert (TCP 34890)
7. Starlimo Transportation, Cathedral City (TCP 34949)
8. Joe Maldonado dba Royale Exec Limo Service (TCP 26613)
9. Megan Franks dba Uncorked Tours (TCP 26854)
10. "R" Transportation Services Inc. dba Palm Springs Limo (TCP 18136)
11. Marwan Saleh dba Advanced 101 Limousine, Sunnyvale (TCP 19100)
12. Makram Darnser dba Bay Limo, Burlingame (TCP 19851)
13. Cabanas Xpress LLC, El Monte (PSC 26634)

14. Joseph Elias dba Showtime Transportation, Fresno (TCP 29245)
15. 1st Classic Transportation, Inc. dba 4 Seasons Limousine Service, Hayward (TCP 21095)
16. Hecker dba SB Executive Transportation, Santa Maria (TCP 30372)
17. Alive Transportation, Inc., San Diego (TCP 24307)
18. Syed Gali Jafri dba The Bay Limo, The Bay Limo and Airport Transportation and Bay Area Limousine Company, Milpitas (TCP 25972)
19. Shining Star Limousine Services, Santa Maria (TCP 26068)
20. Jerry Wayne Kester dba Aurora Limousine Service, Stockton (TCP 19389)
21. King Limousine Service, Inc., Mission Viejo (TCP 20789)
22. ECT LLC dba Exotic Transportation, Rockstar 24/7, and Exotic Party Bus, Anaheim (TCP 28502)
23. Mike Mehrdad Meimand, dba Excell Limousine, Bay Point (TCP 21336)

Phone Disconnections

As part of its ongoing efforts to clamp down on illegal transportation companies, the CPUC had telephone service shut off to two charter party carriers operating in California without authority. These companies continued to advertise and hold themselves out to engage in the business of transporting passengers, notwithstanding CPUC staff directives to immediately cease and desist unlawful acts and to obtain a transportation charter party permit:

- **Steve Won, dba AllStar Limousine, Antioch (TCP 22722 – revoked):** This company advertised and offered transportation service on the Internet. The advertisement listed one phone number. Notwithstanding a CPUC staff Cease and Desist letter directing the company to immediately cease all unlawful advertisements, the company continued to violate the law as evidenced by advertisements on the Internet. On April 1, 2015, CPUC staff obtained a Finding of Probable Cause signed by a Contra Costa County Superior Court Judge. The Finding ordered disconnection of telephone service to the number advertised and used by the company to violate criminal laws in the State of California.
- **Artem Drabchuk dba Royal Coach, Fresno Royal Coach, and Coach Royal (unlicensed):** This company advertised transportation services on the Internet without obtaining the appropriate permit. Notwithstanding a CPUC staff Cease and Desist notice directing the company to immediately cease all unlawful advertisements and operations, the company continued to violate the law. On June 9, 2015, CPUC staff obtained a Finding of Probable Cause signed by a Fresno County Superior Court Judge. The Finding ordered disconnection of the telephone service to the numbers advertised and used by the company to violate criminal laws in the State of California.

Enforcement Actions at Los Angeles World Airport (LAWA):

Number of citations issued by LAWA police (unlicensed operations only)	57
Number of vehicles impounded	53

Official Notices

Four companies received Official Notices for one or more of these violations:

1. Engaged drivers prior to enrollment in the DMV pull notice and drug and alcohol programs.
2. Advertised and operated without authority (prior to issuance, expired, or suspended).
3. Conducted operations at an airport without holding an airport permit.
4. Engaged drivers without workers' compensation insurance on file and in effect.
5. Failed to include TCP authority number in advertisements.
6. Failed to update equipment list.
7. Incomplete or no waybills.
8. Knowingly and intentionally filed a false report that understates revenues and fees.

The company receiving notice:

1. California Extradition Service, LLC, Oakland (TCP 29868)
2. British Bus Company LLC, Del Mar (TCP 22298)
3. Makalani Hodari/Baker Lynette dba LA Hood Life & Hip Hop Tours, Hollywood (TCP 28884)
4. Joy Step Inc., El Monte (TCP 34495)

Refunds and Settlement Claims

1. **White Gold Moving & Storage Inc., Gardena (MTR 191159):** Refunded \$50 to shipper for overcharges.
2. **Mini Bus Systems Inc. dba Supershuttle, Rancho Cucamonga (TCP 8016):** Refunded \$655 to customer for service issues.
3. **Greyhound Lines Inc. dba Boltbus, Dallas (TCP 00001):** Refunded \$25.80 to customer for service issues.
4. **Supershuttle of San Francisco Inc. dba Supershuttle and Execucar, South San Francisco (TCP 1298):** Refunded \$120 to customer for service issues.
5. **Rideshare Port Management LLC dba Prime Time Shuttle, Hawthorne (TCP 11415):** Refunded \$18.24 to customer for service issues.
6. **Rideshare Port Management LLC dba Prime Time Shuttle, Hawthorne (TCP 11415):** Refunded \$22 to customer for service issues.
7. **Rideshare Port Management LLC dba Prime Time Shuttle, Hawthorne (TCP 11415):** Refunded \$96.45 to customer for service issues.
8. **East Bay Connection Inc., Concord (TCP 8614):** Refunded \$32 to customer for service issues.
9. **24-7 Ride, Tustin (TCP 25014):** Refunded \$149.80 for services not completed.

10. **24-7 Ride, Tustin (TCP 25014):** Agreed to refund monies to consumers for service-related complaints.

Cease and Desist Notices

The following 32 companies were issued a Cease and Desist notice for the violation of operating and/or advertising without a valid charter-party authority (unlicensed, suspended, revoked, denied or expired):

1. Aguilas Del Desierto LLC, dba Cachanilla Express, Pomona (PSG 20407)
2. Artem Drabchuk dba Seattle Best Limo, Fresno (Unlicensed)
3. Robert McHenry, dba Advance American Limousine Service, San Jose (TCP 27415)
4. Kangado, San Francisco (Unlicensed)
5. Zip2Airport Inc., San Jose (TCP 34711)
6. Intimate Wine Tours LLC, Napa (Unlicensed)
7. Victor Hernandez dba Enlaces Turisticos de Sonora, Fresno (Unlicensed)
8. Steven Gruber dba Steven Gruber Transportation, Sacramento (TCP 21481)
9. Summerfield Senior Care Inc., Yuba City (Unlicensed)
10. City Safari Hollywood, Inc., Los Angeles (TCP 22369)
11. Yail Academy, La Crescenta (Unlicensed)
12. International Transportation and Tours LLC dba Discount Shuttle of the Desert, Palm Desert (PSG 31986)
13. Thomas Singerline dba Jersey Tom Wine Country Tours, Cloverdale (Unlicensed)
14. Saenz Express LLC, dba La Nueva Concord's Express, Chula Vista (PSC 26418)
15. Cotijas Transportation LLC, El Monte (PSC 24807)
16. JuanCarlos Montero dba Elite Group Limousines, Costa Mesa (Unlicensed)
17. Esther Barnes dba Alternative Limousine Service, Chico (Unlicensed)
18. Leap Transit, Inc., San Francisco (PSG 33867)
19. Mehrdad Mike Meimand, dba Excell Limousine, Bay Point (TCP 21336)
20. Yail Academy, La Crescenta (Unlicensed)
21. Paul Gutierrez, Jr. dba PGA Transport and Logistics, Tracy (Unlicensed)
22. Bi-Key Academy Inc., Foster City (Unlicensed)
23. Hanlin Academy Inc., Belmont (Unlicensed)
24. Golden Star Express LLC, La Habra (TCP 27733)
25. Tyrus Tyrone Rowland dba Rowland Transportation, Beaumont (TCP 31090)
26. Brian Michael Donald dba American VIP Transportation, Anaheim (TCP 14948)
27. International Bus Lines, Inc., Newbury Park (Unlicensed)
28. Arthur Champie, dba Napa Sonoma Wine Tasting Driver, Vacaville (Unlicensed)
29. Michael Wicks, Sonoma (Unlicensed)
30. John Stuart Brenner, dba Hollywood Town Car and Limousine, Malibu (TCP 26287)
31. Michael Schwartz dba The Back Country, Tahoe City (Unlicensed)
32. Gurmeet Sahni dba Century Airport Service, Tracy (TCP 16980)

For more information on the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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