



California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Terrie Prosper, 415.703.1366, news@cpuc.ca.gov

**CPUC INVESTIGATIONS RESULT IN ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS
AND FINES IMPOSED ON VARIOUS LIMOUSINES,
SHUTTLES, AND BUS COMPANIES – 3RD QUARTER 2015**

SAN FRANCISCO, November 11, 2015 – The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), in its ongoing commitment to consumer protection, took a number of actions in third quarter 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 Updates

- **Rick Michael Apodaca an individual doing business as (dba) Platinum Luxury Limousine, Tustin (Unlicensed):** The CPUC requested that the Orange County District Attorney's Office file a misdemeanor complaint against this company for operating and advertising without CPUC authority. On March 12, 2015, the defendant pled not guilty.
- **Tres Estrellas De Oro, Huntington Park (Unlicensed):** After a lengthy process, De Oro, Jose Guzman, Luis Guzman, Tania Galvan, and Sandra Cazares were indicted for illegal actions. Bench warrants in the amount of \$500,000 were issued for the Guzman brothers and for Galvan, and a \$100,000 bench warrant was issued for Cazares. All parties have been arraigned and a deposition is scheduled for Dec. 1, 2015, to allow defense discovery, and trial date is scheduled for January 12, 2016.

Administrative Citations

Eighteen companies were cited and fined a total of \$37,000 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

The companies cited were:

1. Social Trends, Inc., dba Social Limousine, Pacifica (TCP 28687)
2. Mazen Barakat dba Blackberry Limousine Services LLC, San Bruno (TCP 24141)
3. Rayad Ghazi Al-Azzam dba Coastline Limousine, Torrance (TCP 32729) Revoked
4. Intl Transportation and Tours LLC dba Discount Shuttle of the Desert, Palm Desert (TCP 31986)
5. United Way LLC, Stockton (TCP 31898-B)
6. Marcos Candido dba Legacy Limousine, Antioch (TCP 15303)
7. Tobin Patrick McDonald dba Brewery Tours of Temecula, Temecula (TCP 30070)
8. Gantumur Mijiddorj dba San Francisco Reliable Limo, Alameda (TCP 31085P)
9. Erasmo Sanchez dba Sanchez Express, San Diego (TCP 31121)
10. Farid Nikkhoo dba Limo Zone, Orange (TCP 31548)
11. Kenneth Lawrence Poblano dba Viva Limousine, Temecula (TCP 29029)
12. Golden Star Express LLC, La Habra (TCP 27733)
13. TLC Transportation & Tours LLC, Garden Grove (TCP 28589)
14. Landry Hampton Jr. dba Landry's Limousine Service, Long Beach (TCP 15297)
15. Richard Stritzel dba Five Star Limousine, Healdsburg (TCP 13583)
16. Paul Gutierrez Jr. dba PGA Transport and Logistics, Manteca (unlicensed)
17. Yehia Fetian and Ashraf Fadlalla dba AAA SFO Limo & Shuttle, Auburn (TCP 26529P)
18. Ibrahim Raed Khalil dba Comedy Limo, San Francisco (TCP 17704)

Phone Disconnections

As part of its ongoing efforts to clamp down on illegal transportation companies, the CPUC had telephone service shut off to four 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. The companies are:

- **Carrillo Holdings Inc., dba Platinum Express Limo (unlicensed):** This company advertised and offered charter party transportation services on the Internet without having obtained a permit. The advertisement listed one phone number. Notwithstanding a

CPUC Cease and Desist letter directing the company to immediately cease all unlawful advertisements and operations, the company continued to violate the law. On September 11, 2015, the CPUC obtained a Finding of Probable Cause signed by an Orange County Superior Court Judge. The Finding orders disconnection of telephone service to the number advertised and used by the company to violate criminal laws in California.

- **Erik Alan Avery, dba Avery Limo Broker, LLC, San Diego (TCP 30587):** This company advertised and offered transportation services on the Internet after denial of a permit. The advertisement listed one phone number. Notwithstanding the CPUC’s Cease and Desist letter directing the company to immediately cease all unlawful advertisements and operations, the company continued to violate the law. On August 28, 2015, the CPUC obtained a Finding of Probable Cause signed by a San Diego County Superior Court Judge. The Finding orders disconnection of telephone service to the number advertised and used by carrier to violate criminal laws in California.
- **Stephen Gruber dba Steve Gruber Transportation Services, Sacramento (TCP 21481P):** This company advertised and offered charter party service on the Internet without a permit. The advertisement listed one telephone number. Notwithstanding the CPUC’s Cease and Desist letter directing the company to immediately cease all unlawful advertisements and operations, the company continued to violate the law. On August 21, 2015, the CPUC obtained a Finding of Probable Cause signed by a Sacramento County Superior Court Judge. The finding orders disconnection of telephone service to the number advertised and used by the carrier to violate criminal laws in California.
- **Victor Hernandez dba Enlaces Turisticos de Sonora (ETS), Fresno (Unlicensed):** This company advertised transportation services and household goods moving services on the Internet and distributed business cards without obtaining the appropriate permit. Notwithstanding the CPUC’s Cease and Desist notice directing the company to immediately cease all unlawful advertisements and operations, the company continued to violate the law. On September 15, 2015, the CPUC obtained a Finding of Probable Cause signed by a Fresno County Superior Court Judge. The Finding orders disconnection of the telephone service to the numbers advertised and used by the company to violate criminal laws in California.

Enforcement Actions at Los Angeles World Airport (LAWA):

Number of citations issued by LAWA police (unlicensed operations only)	55
Number of vehicles impounded	50

Official Notices

Ten companies were issued 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 following companies received the notice:

1. Maria Hernandez dba Apple Transportation, Chino (TCP 27182)
2. Figueroa Mountain Mug Club LLC, Buellton (TCP 35668-Z)
3. Lift Hero Inc., San Francisco (Unlicensed)
4. Loriza and Michael Wicks, Sonoma (Unlicensed)
5. Red Carpet Tours LLC dba Red Carpet Tours, Woodland Hills (PSG 25672)
6. Kinzy Limousine, South San Francisco (TCP 19852)
7. Johnnie Linda Powe-Magee, dba All Three Transit, Bakersfield (Unlicensed)
8. Sierra Bravo Enterprises LLC, dba Jump On The School Bus, Carpinteria (TCP 28446)
9. Wang Ted Peng Chu dba Teddy Express, Laguna Woods (TCP 33082)
10. Paul Fretheim dba East Side Sierra Shuttle, Independence (TCP 35385)
11. Figueroa Mountain Mug Club LLC, Buellton (TCP 35668)

Refunds and Settlement Claims

1. **John Brenner, dba Hollywood Towncar and Limousine, Malibu (TCP 26287):** The company refunded \$198 for services not completed.
2. **Ibrahim Hanna Awad dba L and I Transportation, Corona (TCP 30884):** The company refunded \$144 for services not completed.
3. **Supershuttle of San Francisco Inc. dba Supershuttle and Execucar. Los Angeles (TCP 1298):** The company refunded \$106 to customer for service issues.
4. **Rideshare Port Management LLC dba Prime Time Shuttle, Hawthorne (TCP 11415):** The company refunded \$260 to customer for service issues.
5. **Vol-Ten Corporation dba Delta Charter Service, Stockton (TCP 7913):** The company refunded \$2,452 for failure to provide contracted service.
6. **24-7 Ride dba 24-7 Ride, Tustin (TCP 25014):** The company refunded \$200 for failure to provide contracted service.

Cease and Desist Notices

Thirty-seven 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).

The following companies were issued a Cease and Desist notice:

1. Art and Josefina Haddock dba Absolute Party Bus, Tulare (Unlicensed)
2. Thomas Singerline dba Jersey Tom Wine Country Tours, Cloverdale (Unlicensed)
3. Kenneth Lawrence Poblano dba Viva Limousine, Temecula (TCP 29029)
4. Shiri Prasad and James Wade Brooks dba Private Driver 24/7, Sacramento (Unlicensed)
5. Sonoma Taxi, Sonoma (Unlicensed)
6. World Class Limousine Service Inc., Concord (TCP 20942)
7. John Myerson dba Comfort Wine Tours, Santa Rosa (Unlicensed)
8. Vino Therapy Studio, Atascadero (Unlicensed)
9. Intelligent Learning, Millbrae (Unlicensed)
10. Cando Business Services, Inc., Santa Clarita (TCP 35562)
11. Armando Javier Trejo, San Ysidro (Unlicensed)
12. Ignacio Lopez Gutierrez, San Ysidro (Unlicensed)
13. Jose Sanchez Morfin, San Ysidro (Unlicensed)
14. Alberto Martinez, Chula Vista (Unlicensed)
15. Jose dela Rosa Martinez, Chula Vista (Unlicensed)
16. German Perez, Nuevo (Unlicensed)
17. Raymundo Maceda Velez, Los Angeles (Unlicensed)
18. Sonia Robles, San Diego (Unlicensed)
19. Jesus Jose Salas, Los Angeles (Unlicensed)
20. Ariel Talledos Cortez, Nuevo (Unlicensed)
21. Reynaldo A. Hernandez dba Turismo El Dorado, San Ysidro (TCP 22330)
22. Jose Luis Lopez dba Bayside Express, Chula Vista (TCP 19884)
23. Mike Lahrach & Soumaya Ghaouti dba Signature Trans Services, San Mateo (TCP 33907)
24. RS Luxury Limousine, LLC, San Jose (TCP 35431)
25. Mohsen Sami Shabaan dba Wonderful Transportation, Wonderful Limousine, Inc., Zuzus Limo, Double M Limo, and M and M, San Jose (TCP 23355)
26. Pacific Limo Service & Tours, Inc., Oceanside (TCP 27561)
27. Hector Bravo Soltero dba Bravosol Tours, Calexico (TCP 20048)
28. Saenz Express LLC dba La Nueva Concord's Express, Chula Vista (PSC 26418)
29. King Limousine Service, Inc., Anaheim (TCP 20789)
30. Yabsra Transportation LLC, San Diego (TCP 31748)
31. Francisco Barajas & Lourdes Morales dba Naipes Tours LLC, Chula Vista (Unlicensed)
32. Patricia Alexandra Mendoza, dba Pink Diamond Limousine Service, Hawthorne (TCP 33374, Revoked)
33. Joe Nguyen, dba, Awesomelimousine, Burbank (PSG Unlicensed)
34. Summit Worldwide Chauffeured Service, Burbank (PSG Unlicensed)
35. Dometrus Hawkins dba DJ's Transport Services, Yuba City (Unlicensed)
36. Zeonon Kucharski dba Event Limo, San Bruno (TCP 20856)
37. Flying Fox Entertainment LLC, DBA Rockbar Theater, San Jose (Unlicensed)

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

###