

California Public Utilities Commission
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PRESS RELEASE

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**CPUC JOINS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT ON STRIKE TEAM
TO ENFORCE SAFETY COMPLIANCE OF PASSENGER CARRIERS
AT MAJOR AIRPORTS AND OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST
IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2011**

SAN FRANCISCO, July 14, 2011 – The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) participated in four multi-agency strike force operations on passenger carriers (limousines, shuttles, tour buses) during the second quarter of 2011 to ensure that companies are properly licensed with the CPUC. The operations were conducted at the following locations:

1. **Law Enforcement Task Force Joint Operation (LEFT) – April 28-29, 2011** – CPUC staff and the San Diego State University Police Department, California Highway Patrol (CHP), Alcohol Beverage Control, and San Diego Police Department participated in a joint Law Enforcement Task Force inspection of charter and party buses. The operation, conducted on two consecutive nights, resulted in 10 buses contacted, nine inspected by the CHP, a total of 47 separate vehicle code violations cited by the CHP, one bus deemed unsafe to operate, 17 misdemeanor arrests/cites made, and 14 traffic citations issued.
2. **Sacramento International Airport (SMF) – May 12, 2011** – CPUC staff and the CHP, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Airport Detail, SMF Airside Operations, SMF Accounting and IT, Sacramento County Department of Weights and Measures, the City of Sacramento, and the County of Sacramento conducted a surprise safety inspection at the Sacramento Airport. At least 101 vehicles (taxicabs, hotel shuttles, limousines, and airport shuttles) were pulled over for the inspection. The CPUC reviewed 29 vehicles (vans and limousines) to ensure that these

companies are properly licensed. The CPUC issued nine Notices to Correct Violations (waybill documentation, vehicle not listed with the CPUC, underreporting of seating capacity). The CHP inspected five vehicles, and placed five vehicles out of service (four for drivers not having proper California Drivers Licenses and one for defective steering component). SMF issued 10 AVI citations for non-payment of AVI fees.

3. **Yosemite National Park – June 8-9, 2011** - A multi-agency task force comprised of CPUC staff, CHP, San Francisco Police Department, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and National Park Rangers conducted a two-day surprise bus inspection at Yosemite National Park. The inspections involved mechanical and safety inspections, checks of driver's qualifications, and checking of authority to transport passengers. Of the 58 vehicles inspected, 23 vehicles were released with no violations. Another 28 vehicles were issued minor violation notices for repairs. In addition, a total of 24 violation notices were issued to companies and bus drivers. A total of 7 buses were placed out of service for mechanical deficiencies, five drivers were ordered out of service for driver's logbook violations and driving without the proper classification, and two buses were ordered out of service for not having CPUC authority to transport passengers. The inspection was in support of Operation Road Check, a national program that is considered to be the largest targeted enforcement program on commercial vehicles in the world. As part of the program, approximately 14 trucks or buses were inspected, on average, every minute from Canada to Mexico during a 72-hour period in early June. Since 1988, over 1 million trucks and buses have been inspected as part of Operation Road Check. The program has provided educational literature and numerous safety events to educate people about the importance of safe commercial vehicle operations and roadside inspection programs.

4. **Oakland International Airport (OAK) – June 16, 2011**- CPUC staff; the CHP; Alameda County Sheriff Office Airport Police Services; Alameda County Weights and Measures (ACWM); the Port of Oakland; and the police departments of Alameda, El Cerrito, Livermore, Oakland, and San Leandro conducted a surprise passenger carrier inspection. Approximately 211 vehicles (91 were shuttles, limos, and vans subject to CPUC jurisdiction; and 120 taxi cabs) were pulled over for the inspection. The CPUC issued a misdemeanor warning (operating with a

suspended permit) and 36 Inspection Observation Reports showing various minor violations (waybill failure, vehicles in operation not listed with the CPUC, and possible workers' compensation laws violations). Fifty-four vehicles had no violations. The CHP inspected 23 vehicles (all regulated), which disclosed a driver violation (out of class), and 10 vehicle violation counts (equipment, lights, tires, and suspension). The CHP placed a driver out of service, and issued four citations for violation of the Vehicle Code.

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