

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

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PRESS RELEASE

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

**CPUC JOINS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT ON STRIKE TEAM
TO ENFORCE SAFETY COMPLIANCE OF PASSENGER CARRIERS
AT MAJOR AIRPORTS AND OTHER AREAS OF INTERESTS**

SAN FRANCISCO, October 19, 2011 – The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) participated in four multi-agency strike force operations on passenger carriers (limousine, shuttles, tour buses) during the third quarter of 2011. These operations were conducted to ensure that companies are properly licensed with the CPUC. The operations were conducted at the following locations:

1. **Del Mar Racetrack, July 20, 2011** – CPUC staff conducted a passenger carrier inspection at the request of Del Mar Racetrack security on opening day to ensure that no unlicensed operators were conducting passenger transportation at the facility. During the four-hour inspection 83 passenger carriers were inspected, with one violation (incorrect TCP number on vehicle) observed.

2. **San Ysidro, July 27, 2011** – CPUC staff and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) conducted an inspection at 700 E. San Ysidro Blvd. from 6 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Of 40 buses inspected, two were impounded by the CHP due to unsafe condition. The CPUC noted five vehicles not listed on the carrier's list of equipment with the CPUC and one vehicle without a commercial license plate.

3. **Sacramento International Airport (SMF), August 15, 2011** – CPUC staff, the CHP, the Employment Development Department, the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Airport Detail, SMF Airside Operations, SMF Accounting and IT, the Sacramento County Department of Weights and Measures, and the City of Sacramento and County of Sacramento conducted a joint second surprise safety vehicles inspection. The CPUC inspected 13 vehicles (vans and limousines) and issued four Notices to Correct Violations (vehicle not listed with CPUC and three for possible violations of workers’ compensation laws).

4. **San Francisco International Airport (SFO), August 4, 2011** – CPUC staff, the CHP, SFO Airport Police, and SFO Landside Operations conducted a joint surprise passenger carriers inspection. Approximately 84 vehicles (limos, buses, and shuttles) were pulled over for the inspection. The CPUC inspected 82 vehicles, issued one Misdemeanor Warning (operation with a pending CPUC permit), and issued 36 Notices to Correct Violations (vehicles not filed with CPUC, waybills, vehicle ID, and possible workers’ compensation violations). Subsequently, the CPUC suspended 11 carriers for engaging employee-drivers without procuring evidence of workers’ compensation insurance coverage.

5. **Modesto Strike Force, August 6, 2011** - As a result of reported increased activities of unlicensed limousine and party bus operators in the downtown Modesto area, Modesto Police Department (MPD), the CHP and CPUC staff conducted a joint strike force from 4:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. This date was selected because of the X-Fest 2011 that was held encompassing a 15-block radius of downtown Modesto. One bus was impounded for operating with a revoked CPUC authority, and MPD issued three misdemeanor citations. This inspection was an outgrowth of a CPUC investigator’s ride-along in April 2011 with a MPD officer who is assigned to the MPD’s Crime Reduction Team.

6. **San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), August 9, 2011** – In late July, two investigators from SFMTA, Investigations and Regulatory Affairs Taxi Services, contacted the CPUC requesting that a CPUC investigator ride along with them to observe the problems of charter-party carriers acting like taxis at some of the major hotels in San Francisco. SFMTA had

received complaints from taxicabs that the hotels' doorman is redirecting hotel guests to the limousines staging nearby. SFMTA reported that the violations involving limousines acting as taxis occur between 10:30 a.m. and noon when guests are checking out and heading to SFO. A CPUC investigator rode along with SFMTA investigators and observed four charter-party carriers operated without a valid permit. An investigation will be initiated on these carriers.

7. **Muir Woods National Monument, September 24, 2011** – CPUC staff, the CHP, and the National Park Service (NPS) conducted a joint surprise passenger carriers inspection. Approximately 20 vehicles (limos, vans, and small buses) were pulled over for the inspection. The CPUC interviewed 18 vehicles, issued one Misdemeanor Warning (operation without authority), and issued two Notices to Correct Violations (TCP numbers not on vehicles). Subsequently, the CPUC suspended two carriers for engaging employee-drivers without procuring evidence of workers' compensation insurance coverage.

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