



Public Utilities Commission

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITATION FOR VIOLATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE

To: Soto's Transport, Inc.
Attn: Jesus Soto



Mailing Address:



File: TCP 39421 B

Date: August 14, 2024

Citation #: T.24-08-005

Case #: CSE-0000154

VIOLATIONS

You are hereby cited with having violated section(s) of the Public Utilities (P.U.) Code and California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (G.O.) as described below. These violations occurred during the period June 10, 2024, to July 11, 2024.

- (1) Advertised as a charter-party carrier without a valid authority, in violation of P.U. Code Section 5414.5. **[3 counts]**

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The above violations are documented in the attached Investigation Report, which consists of carrier's records and substantiating documents obtained from other sources.

RESPONSE

The Transportation Enforcement Branch of the Commission used the Penalty Assessment Methodology adopted in Resolution M-4846 and considered mitigating and exacerbating factors in setting the fine.

You are hereby called upon to answer this citation on or before September 3, 2024. By way of such answer, you may either:

- (1) Pay a fine of \$4,000 pursuant to P.U. Code Section 5378. Submit your check or money order payable to California Public Utilities Commission using the attached *Citation Agreement*. Upon payment, the fine will be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the General Fund and the Commission staff will deem the matter closed, **or**
- (2) Contact the Supervisor below to make payment arrangements, **or**
- (3) Contest this Citation by filing an Appeal. See attached document: "*How to File an Appeal and Instructions for Filing a Notice of Appeal and Certificate of Service for a Citation Appeal.*"

If you fail to respond by September 3, 2024, you will be in default and will have forfeited your right to appeal the Citation. In addition, your operating authority will be immediately suspended and may be subsequently revoked pursuant to Resolution ALJ-187. The Commission may also act through a civil or criminal proceeding to recover any unpaid fine and ensure compliance with applicable statutes and Commission orders.

Bezawit Dilgassa

Bezawit Dilgassa
Interim Program and Project Supervisor
Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division
Transportation Enforcement Branch
Telephone number: 415-792-3269
E-mail address: bezawit.dilgassa@cpuc.ca.gov

Attachments



Public Utilities Commission

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITATION COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT

File No.: TCP 39421 B
Citation #: T.24-08-005
Date: August 14, 2024
Case #: CSE-0000154

I (we) hereby agree to comply with this citation dated August 14, 2024, and herewith pay the fine of \$4,000.

Soto's Transport, Inc.
Attn: Jesus Soto



Mailing Address:



(Signature)

(Title)

(Date)

Payment (cashier check or money order) should be made payable to *California Public Utilities Commission* and sent to:

California Public Utilities Commission
Attn: Fiscal Office
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

Automatic credit and debit card payments are also available. To arrange for autopay, fill out the attached CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD AUTHORIZATION form and mail to the above address.

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Soto's Transport, Inc.
Attn: Jesus Soto



File: TCP 39421 B
Citation #: T.24-08-005
Case #: CSE-000154
Date:

Mailing Address



AUTO-PAY CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD AUTHORIZATION

I (we), _____, doing business as Soto's Transport Inc., hereby authorize the California Public Utilities Commission to deduct \$ _____ from my VISA or Mastercard in one installment, or each month, on the due date, until Citation T.24-08-005 is paid in full.

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Cardholder Authorized Signature

Date

Attachments:

- Photocopy of Credit or Debit Card
- Photocopy of Cardholder's Driver's License

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

CARRIER: Soto's Transport, Inc.
CA Secretary of State: 4593490 (Active)

OFFICERS: Jesus Soto, Owner
Ana B Soto, Owner

AUTHORITY: Charter-Party Carrier – TCP 39421 B (Expired)

ADDRESS: Business Address
[REDACTED]

Mailing Address
[REDACTED]

PHONE/EMAIL: [REDACTED]

VEHICLES: 1 Bus

EMPLOYEES: None

PL&PD INSURANCE: National Fire & Marine Insurance Company
[REDACTED]
Effective Date: 9/27/23

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE: None

DRUG CONSORTIUM: Trucker Exam, Inc.

INTRODUCTION

On June 10, 2024, I was assigned to investigate Soto's Transport, Inc. (Soto's Transport) for failure to display the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) assigned charter-party carrier (TCP) number on its vehicle.

VIOLATIONS

The investigation disclosed that Soto's Transport violated the following provision of the Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code) from June 10, 2024, to July 11, 2024.

- **Advertised as a charter-party carrier without a valid authority in violation of Pub. Util. Code Section 5414.5. [3 counts]**

On June 7, 2024, the Commission received a complaint alleging that Soto's Transport was not displaying its TCP number on its vehicle. A review of the Transportation Licensing and Analysis Branch (TLAB) records revealed that Soto's Transport's TCP authority expired on June 17, 2024. TLAB sent Soto's Transport a letter on June 17, 2024, notifying the carrier of the expiration of its operating authority [**Attachment 1**].

Despite the expired authority, Soto's Transport continued to advertise its passenger transportation service on its website, <https://www.sotostransportinc.com> [**Attachment 3**]. On July 3, 2024, I sent a Notice to Cease and Desist (C&D Notice) to Soto's Transport, instructing the carrier to cease and desist advertising and operating without authority [**Attachment 2**]. This Notice was emailed to the carrier via [REDACTED].

Soto's Transport did not respond to the C&D Notice. Furthermore, the carrier continued to advertise its passenger services on its website on July 8, 2024, July 9, 2024, and July 10, 2024, in direct violation of the C&D Notice [**Attachment 3**].

DECLARATION

I have read the foregoing and know the contents thereof and I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, except as to those matters stated on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe to be true.

Executed on August 14, 2024
at Los Angeles, California

Ronald Truss
Ronald Truss
Public Utilities Regulatory Analyst II

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

1. Soto's Transport's Notice of Expiration of Operation Authority
2. July 3, 2023 Notice to Cease and Desist
3. Screen shots of Soto's Transport's website from July 8, 2024 to July 10, 2024

ATTACHMENT 1 – Notice of Expiration of Operation Authority

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298



DBA:

PSG0039421

ATTN:SOTO'S TRANSPORT INC



TCP CLASS B CERTIFICATE

Notice of Expiration of Operating Authority

This is notice from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) that the operating authority listed on this letter expired effective **June 17, 2024**.

After the cancellation or revocation of a permit or certificate, or during the period of its suspension, or after the expiration of its permit or certificate, it is unlawful for a Passenger Stage Corporation (PSC) or a Transportation Charter-Party carrier (TCP) of passengers to conduct any operations as a carrier. (California Public Utilities Code §§ 1045, 5379)

Such unlawful operations are subject to fines and penalties as set forth in the California Public Utilities Code.

Date: Jun 17, 2024

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

licensing@cpuc.ca.gov

ATTACHMENT 2: Notice to Cease and Desist

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GAVIN NEWSOM, *Governor*

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 3, 2024

TCP: Expired
Case No.: CSE-000154

Jesus Soto
Soto Transportation LLC



NOTICE TO CEASE AND DESIST

Dear Jesus Soto:

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has become aware that you are operating without a valid authority.

Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code Sections 1031 and 5371 state that it is unlawful for a Passenger Stage Corporation or a Charter-Party Carrier to conduct any operations without valid authority. Pub. Util. Code Sections 1034.5 and 5414.5 state that it is unlawful to publish or advertise without holding a valid operating authority. Advertisements include, but are not limited to, advertising in local directories or Yellow Pages, business cards, internet websites, and any other form of advertisements.

Your company must immediately cease and desist from all unlawful operations including advertising.

Pub. Util. Code Section 1037 states in part that any PSC carrier which operates without a valid authority is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1000.

OR

Page 2.

Pub. Util. Code Section 5411 states in part that any TCP carrier which operates without a valid authority is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine not less than \$1,000.

This letter places your company on notice that continued violations of the law without the required operating authority may result in enforcement actions, including criminal prosecutions. There will be no further warnings.

For information on obtaining a permit or certificate, go to:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/transportationlicensing/>.

Please contact me within five days of receiving this notice at the telephone number and email address listed below.

Sincerely,

Ronald Truss

Ronald Truss, Public Utilities Regulatory Analyst II California

California Public Utilities Commission

Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division

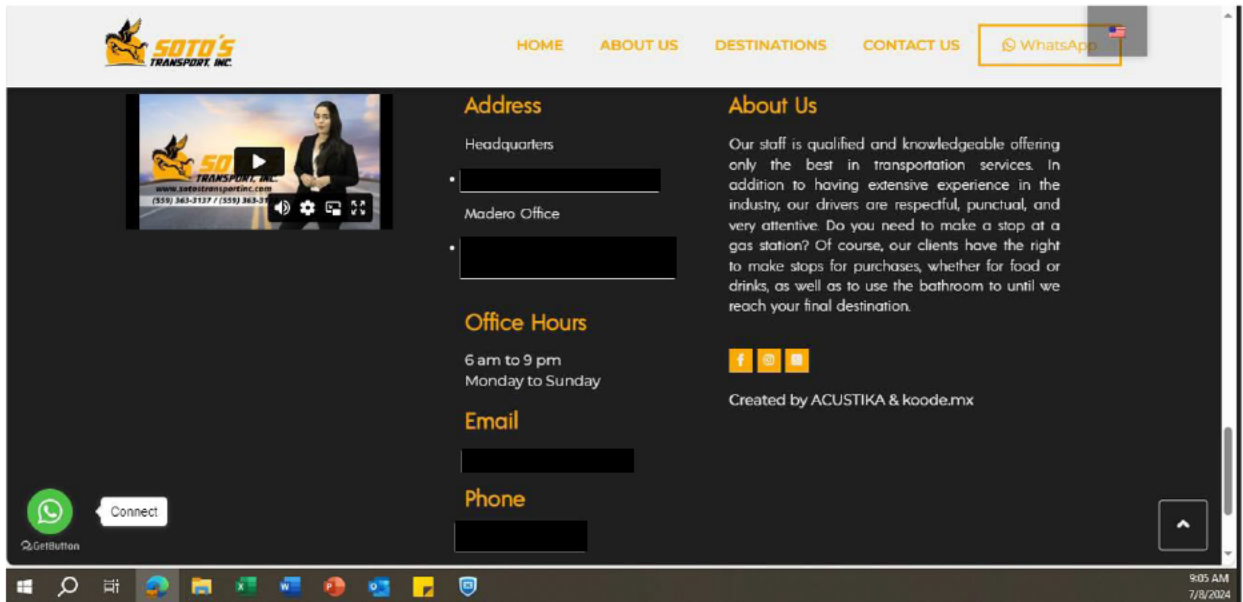
Transportation Enforcement Branch

Email: Ronald.Truss@cpuc.ca.gov

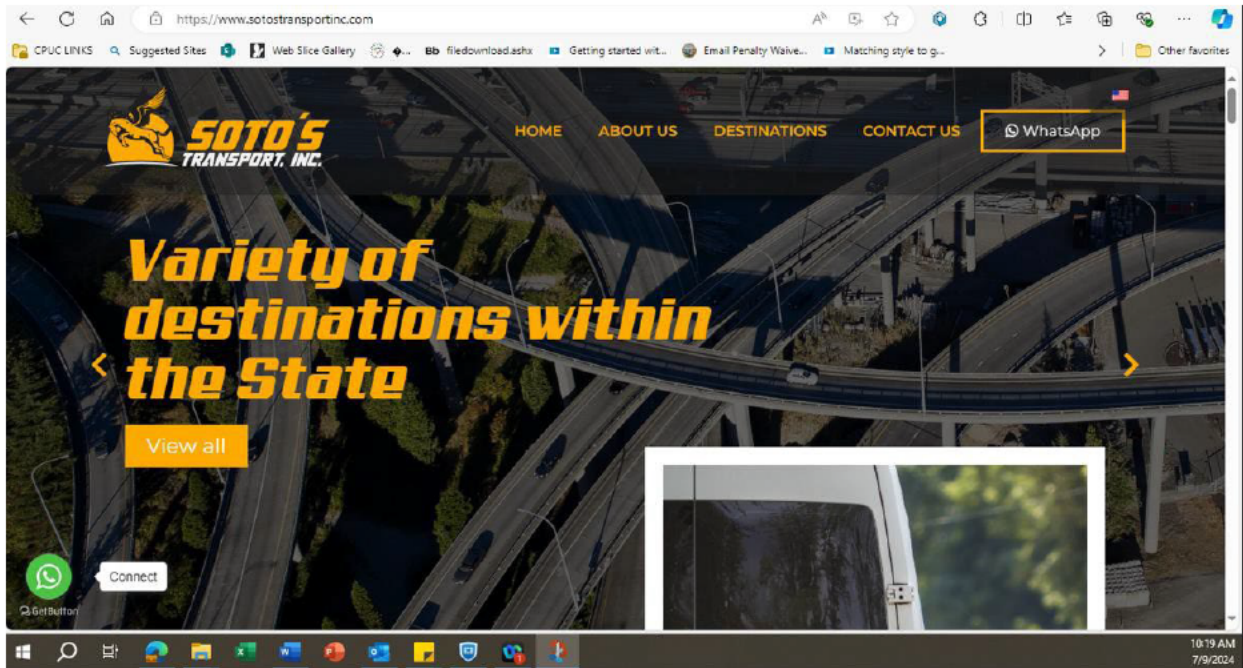
Telephone: 1-213-269-2737

ATTACHMENT 3: Soto's Transport's website advertisements from 7/8/2024 to 7/10/2024

7/8/2024



7/9/2024



7/10/2024

CPUC LINKS Suggested Sites Web Slice Gallery Bb filedownload.ashx Getting started wit... Email Penalty Waive... Matching style to g... Other favorites

https://www.sotostransportinc.com

SOTO'S
TRANSPORT, INC.

HOME ABOUT US DESTINATIONS CONTACT US WhatsApp

*Safe transfers
throughout
California*

Contact Us

Connect

8:55 AM
7/10/2024