

Public Utilities Commission

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITATION FOR VIOLATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE

To: The Ants Express Attn: Qin He, CEO 13246 Joliet Drive Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739

File: TCP 42455-A Citation #: T.2025-01-003 Date: January 14, 2025 Case #: CSE-000257

VIOLATIONS

The Ants Express is hereby cited as having violated a section of the Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code as described below. The violation occurred during the period of September 24, 2024.

(1) Operated as a Charter-Party Carrier (TCP) after revocation of TCP authority, in violation of Pub. Util. Code Section 5379 [1 count].

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STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

RESPONSE

You are hereby called upon to answer this citation on or before February 3, 2025. By way of such an answer, you may either:

- Pay a fine of \$2,000 pursuant to Pub. Util. 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 CPUC 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 the 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 February 3, 2025, you will be in default and will have forfeited your right to appeal the Citation. The CPUC may also act through a civil or criminal proceeding to recover any unpaid fine and ensure compliance with applicable statutes and CPUC orders.

Tic Hooks

Eric Hooks Program and Project Supervisor Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division Transportation Enforcement Branch Telephone number: (415) 703-2302 E-mail address: <u>eric.hooks@cpuc.ca.gov</u>

Attachments



Public Utilities Commission

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITATION COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT

File No.: TCP 42455-A Citation #: T.2025-01-003 Date: January 14, 2025 Case #: CSE-000257

I (we) hereby agree to comply with this citation dated January 14, 2025, and herewith pay the fine of \$2,000.

Qin He, CEO The Ants Express 13246 Joliet Drive Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739

(Signature)

(Title)

(Date)

Automatic credit and debit card payments are available. To arrange for autopay, fill out the attached <u>CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD AUTHORIZATION form and email it</u> to our Fiscal Office at <u>FiscalOffice-.TECitations@cpuc.ca.gov</u>.

Or

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

INVESTIGATION REPORT

CARRIER:	The Ants Express A California Corporation, 4861352 (Terminated)
OFFICER	Qin He, Chief Executive Officer
AUTHORITY:	TCP 42455-A, Revoked
MAILING ADDRESS:	13246 Joliet Drive Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739
PHONE/EMAIL:	
VEHICLES:	1
EMPLOYEE-DRIVERS:	1
PL&PD ¹ INSURANCE:	Redwood Fire and Casualty Insurance Company Policy Number: Cancellation Date: September 26, 2023
DRUG CONSORTIUM:	Anzavista Enterprise, LLC

¹ Public Liability and Property Damage (PL&PD)

INTRODUCTION

On October 4, 2024, I was assigned to investigate the operations and practices of The Ants Express (hereinafter referred to as Ants Express) because of a citation issued by the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) for operating without authority and no airport permit.

VIOLATIONS

I investigated Ants Express for the period of September 24, 2024, and found a violation of the following provisions of the Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order (G.O.):

• Operated as a Charter-Party Carrier (TCP) after revocation of authority, in violation of Pub. Util. Code Section 5379. [1 count]

Pub. Util. Code 5379 states in part that "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 charter-party carrier of passengers to conduct any operations as a carrier."

The CPUC's Transportation and Licensing Analysis Branch (TLAB) records show that an Order of Revocation was sent to Ants Express on December 29, 2023, for failure to maintain public liability and property damage (PL&PD) insurance [Attachment 1]. On September 24, 2024, SFPD issued Ants Express Citation for operating without authority and with no airport permit [Attachment 2]. My investigation disclosed that Ants Express operated one day after the revocation of its authority.

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 to those matters, I believe to be true.

Executed on January 14, 2025, at Los Angeles, California.

<u>La Tasha James</u>

LaTasha James, Enforcement Analyst Consumer Protection & Enforcement Division Transportation Enforcement Branch

List of Attachments

- Attachment 1. Notice of Voluntary Suspension of Operating Authority
- Attachment 2. SFPD Citation

Attachment One

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

DBA:



PSG0042455

ATTN:THE ANTS EXPRESS 13246 JOLIET DRIVE RANCHO CUCAMONGA CALIFORNIA 91739

TCP CLASS A CERTIFICATE

Order of Revocation

This is notice from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) that the operating authority listed on this letter is revoked effective **December 29, 2023**.

Failure to maintain adequate public liability and property damage (PL/PD) insurance

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). Unlawful operations are subject to fines and penalties as set forth in the California Public Utilities Code and may include permanent revocation of your operating authority or being permanently barred from receiving an operating authority.

There is a ninety (90) day period in which a revoked carrier may apply to reinstate the revoked operating authority unless it was permanently revoked.

Date: Dec 29, 2023

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION STATE OF CALIFORNIA

licensing@cpuc.ca.gov

Attachment Two



AIRPORT COMMISSION SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GROUND TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION

Date: 9/24/2024	Time: 11:26 PDT		Day: Tuesday
Plate #:	VIN #:		
Make:	Model:	Style: SUV	Color: Black
Company: Non-Permitted Operator		TCP #: 099999	
Location: IT Dep			

Violated Rules and Regulations

4.7(A)	Failure to comply with permit terms, directives, and requirements of Rule 4.7(A)
9.2	Operating a Business without Airport Authorization
Other	See Notes
4.7(A)(4)(a)	Lack of or improper trade dress, placard, TCP# or decal

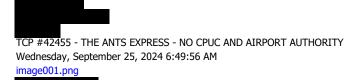
Comment: CURBSIDE DROP OFF, DOOR 5. NO TCP OR SFO DECAL

Issuing Authority: SFPD

Issuer Id:

FINES SHALL BE ASSESSED PER RULE 14 OF SFIA AIRPORT RULES AND REGULATIONS AND/OR APPLICABLE OPERATING PERMIT.

From: To: Cc: Subject: Date: Attachments:



Good morning,

Attached is Citation . Yesterday, 09-24-24, a SFPD Officer observed your company's vehicle a black SUV with CA plates conducting business here at SFO. Upon further investigation, your company does not have an Airport Permit nor an active CPUC authority. Your TCP #42455 has been revoked since 06/11/2024.

<u>Please Cease and Desist all operation here at SFO until your company has obtain valid</u> Airport and CPUC authority.

Continuing to operate may result in an administrative fine for each trip conducted, recollection of trip fees and further investigation by CPUC for violating the Public Utilities Codes and General Order 157-E.

Public Utilities Code Section 5379: 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 charter-party carrier of passengers to conduct any operations as a carrier.

Public Utilities Code Section 5411: Every charter-party carrier of passengers and every officer, director, agent, or employee of any charter-party carrier of passengers who violates or who fails to comply with, or who procures, aids, or abets any violation by any charter-party carrier of passengers of any provision of this chapter, or who fails to obey, observe, or comply with any order, decision, rule, regulation, direction, demand, or requirement of the commission, or of any operating permit or certificate issued to any charter-party carrier of passengers, or who procures, aids, or abets any charter-party carrier of passengers in its failure to obey, observe, or comply with any such order, decision, rule, regulation, direction, demand, requirement, or operating permit or certificate. is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than three months, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

Thank you for your cooperation.



CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD AUTHORIZATION

(PRINTED NAME)

Do hereby authorize the CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC) to charge the

Amount of ______ from my VISA / MASTERCARD (Circle one)

Card No. :_____

Expiration date:_____

Cardholder Authorized Signature

Today's date

Attachments:

Photocopy of Credit Card (Front & Back)

Photocopy of Cardholder's Driver's License

HOW TO FILE AN APPEAL OF A CITATION

IF YOU WISH TO APPEAL THIS CITATION, YOU MUST DO SO WITHIN 20 CALENDAR DAYS OF THE DATE YOU RECEIVED THE CITATION.

There are two options to file your appeal, both options require use of the Appeal Form located at the link below:

Appeal Form

Option 1: You may file your appeal electronically by following the instructions on the CPUC's Filing A Document Electronically (E-filing) webpage <u>E-File a Document (ca.gov)</u>

Option 2: You may file you appeal by sending six (6) paper copies addressed to CPUC's Docket office:

California Public Utilities Commission Docket Office, 2nd Floor 505 Van Ness Ave San Francisco, CA 94102

After Filing your appeal, you must also serve the Notice of Appeal:

To serve copies of the Notice of Appeal, you must attach a **"Certificate of Service for a Citation Appeal."** In the Notice of Appeal, you must state why you are appealing the citation.

To properly serve the Notice of Appeal, send the Notice of Appeal and any attachments by *e-mail* to the following recipients:

- 1. CPUC Docket Office, ALJ_Docket_Office@cpuc.ca.gov
- 2. Transportation Enforcement Inbox, TEB_Citation_Appeals@cpuc.ca.gov
- 3. Terra Curtis, Director CPED, Terra.Curtis@cpuc.ca.gov
- 4. Michelle Cooke, Chief Administrative Law Judge, Michelle.Cooke@cpuc.ca.gov
- 5. **ALJ Division Appeals Coordinator**, ALJ_Div_Appeals_Coordinator@cpuc.ca.gov

Please note if you are appealing by the Paper Copy process you must also file the Notice of Appeal either by emailing as described above or mailing to the following:

Original plus six copies to:

1. **Docket Office,** California Public Utilities Commission, Docket Office, 2nd Floor, 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102

One Copy Each to:

- 2. **Terra Curtis, Director**, Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division, California Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Ave., 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102
- Michelle Cooke, Chief Administrative Law Judge, California Public Utilities Commission, Administrative Law Division, 505 Van Ness Ave., 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102
- 4. **ALJ Division Appeals Coordinator**, California Public Utilities Commission, Administrative Law Division, 505 Van Ness Ave., 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102
- 5. **Kenneth Bruno, Program Manager,** Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division, Transportation Enforcement Branch, 320 W. 4th Street Los Angeles, CA 90013

You may request an extension of time to file an appeal

You may request up to 30 days additional time to file an appeal. To ask for extra time, contact the Supervisor listed on the citation on or before the due date to seek a 30-day extension. A copy of the letter granting you an extension must be attached to your appeal.

The Citation Appeals Process can be found in Appendix A of CPUC Resolution ALJ-377, available through this link: <u>ALJ-377 Appendix A Citation Appeal Rules</u>. The relevant Citation Appeals Process are also included in the packet you received along with the citation.

Paying the Citation and availability of Payment Plans

If you do not want to file an appeal and agree to comply with the citation and pay the fine, sign the Citation Compliance Agreement. Contact the Supervisor listed on the citation before the due date to seek authorization for any payment plans as necessary.

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T RESPOND?

If you do not respond to the citation within the 20 calendar days, you will be in default of the citation, and will lose your right to appeal the citation. In addition, CPED will immediately suspend your operating authority. If you do not pay the citation amount or make a payment arrangement by 30 days after suspension of your operating authority, CPED will revoke your operating authority. Once we revoke your operating authority, we cannot reinstate it. Instead, first you must pay the citation fine, and then apply to the CPUC for **new** operating authority and pay a filing fee. The CPUC may also act through a civil or criminal proceeding to recover any unpaid fines and to ensure compliance with applicable statutes and CPUC orders.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

If you file a Notice of Appeal, the CPUC will set a **hearing date** for your appeal to be heard before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ).

Hearing Venue:

Until further notice, all appeal hearings will be telephonic due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Telephone instructions will be provided by the ALJ prior to the telephone hearing. **At the hearing:**

There are two different types of Hearing Procedures for an Appeal to be heard before a CPUC Administrative Law Judge.

Expedited Citation Appeal Procedure

Resolution ALJ-377 provides for an expedited process for citations at or below the jurisdictional limit of the Small Claims Court in California as referenced in Public Utilities Code § 1702.1. This is currently \$10,000 for individuals and \$5,000 for corporations.

- Attorneys or representatives are not allowed to represent parties in the expedited process.
- No court reporters will be present, nor will a transcript be provided.
- You are entitled to have an interpreter present at the hearing to translate for you. The CPUC will provide the interpreter cost free. To have an interpreter at the hearing, you must make a written request to the Acting Chief Administrative Law Judge and to the Office of the Public Advisor (see contact information, on this form) no later than five business days before the date of your hearing.
- You may provide evidence and call witnesses to testify for you. If you will be providing evidence for the record of the hearing, you must provide that evidence to CPED no later than three days before the date of your hearing.
- A party who is subject to the Expedited Citation Appeal Procedure, may at any time prior to the swearing in of the first witness at the evidentiary hearing, request termination of the Expedited Citation Appeal Procedure, and that the matter be recalendared for hearing under the Commission's regular procedure for Citation Appeals. The Commission or the assigned Administrative Law Judge, when the public interest so requires, may at any time prior to the filing of a resolution addressing the Citation Appeal, terminate the Expedited Citation Appeal Procedure and recalendar the matter for hearing under the Commission's regular procedure for Citation Appeals.

Regular Procedure for Citation Appeals

For cases exceeding the small claims threshold above, or when the appellant requests termination of the expedited procedure, the CPUC will use the regular procedure for citation appeals.

- You may have an attorney or someone else represent you, but you must pay for the attorney or other representative.
- You may ask for a transcript of the hearing, but you must pay the cost of the transcript.
- You are entitled to have an interpreter present at the hearing to translate for you. The CPUC will provide the interpreter, and you will not have to pay for the interpreter's service. To have an interpreter at the hearing, you must make a written request to the Acting Chief Administrative Law Judge and to the Office of the Public Advisor (see contact information, below) no later than five business days before the date of your hearing.

• You may provide evidence and call witnesses to testify for you. If you will be providing evidence for the record of the hearing, you must provide that evidence to CPED no later than three days before the date of your hearing.

WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

The CPUC's **Public Advisor's Office** can help you file your appeal. The Public Advisor's Office cannot appear at the hearing with you or help you present your appeal but can help you understand the appeal process. The Public Advisor's Office can be reached at:

Telephone: 866-849-8390 or 415-703-2074 Email: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov Mail: CPUC Public Advisor, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Resolution ALJ-187 Administrative Law Judge Division September 22, 2005

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION ALJ-187. Adopts Procedures for Appeal of Citations Issued to Household Goods Carriers, Charter Party Carriers, and Passenger Stage Corporations.

By a series of previous resolutions, the Commission has developed a program under which the Consumer Protection and Safety Division (CPSD) is authorized to issue citations to various classes of carriers for violation of the Public Utilities Code or Commission orders. In turn, a carrier issued such a citation may accept the fine imposed or contest it through a process of appeal. Now, in an effort to make this program more comprehensive and this process more efficient, the Commission has prepared new procedures to govern the appeal of these citations.

A draft of this resolution was issued on August 19, 2005, for public review and comment. No one filed comments. The resolution is adopted as originally proposed with minor clarifications.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the following procedures shall govern appeals of citations for violation of statutes or Commission orders relating to household goods carriers, charter party carriers, and passenger stage corporations:

- 1. *Citation: Contents.* The citation served upon the respondent by the investigator shall include:
 - (a) A specification of each statute or Commission order allegedly violated;
 - (b) A statement of the facts upon which each alleged violation is based;
 - (c) A statement that the respondent may either pay the amount of the fine set forth in the citation or appeal the citation, as set forth herein, and that the respondent will forfeit the right to appeal the citation by failing to do either of these things within the allowable period;

- (d) An explanation of how to file an appeal, including an explanation of the respondent's right to have a hearing, to have a representative at the hearing, to request a transcript, and to request an interpreter; and
- (e) A form of Notice of Appeal, and the form for requesting an interpreter.
- 2. *Citation: Response.* The respondent, within 20 days after the date of service of the citation, shall either remit payment of the full amount of the fine to CPSD, agree with CPSD on conditions for payment, or serve a Notice of Appeal upon CPSD. Upon request made to CPSD before the expiration of this deadline, the time to pay the fine or serve a Notice of Appeal may be extended by CPSD for a reasonable period not to exceed 30 days. CPSD may, in its discretion, grant one additional extension at the request of the respondent.
- 3. *Citation: Payment of fine; default.* If the respondent pays the full amount of the fine within the time allowed hereunder, the citation shall become final. If the respondent, within the time allowed pursuant to Paragraph 2, fails to pay the full amount of the fine or to file a Notice of Appeal, or if the respondent, having entered into an agreement with CPSD, fails to comply with any provision of that agreement, the respondent shall be in default, and the citation shall become final. In this event, the respondent shall have forfeited its right to appeal the citation, and CPSD shall immediately suspend the respondent's license. If the respondent fails to pay the full amount of the fine within 30 days thereafter, CPSD shall revoke the respondent's license, and may take any other action provided by law to recover any unpaid fine and ensure compliance with applicable statutes and Commission orders.
- 4. Citation: Appeal.
 - (a) The Chief Administrative Law Judge shall designate an Administrative Law Judge to hear appeals of citations.
 - (b) Appeals of citations shall be heard in the Commission's San Francisco or Los Angeles courtrooms on regularly scheduled days. Appeals shall be calendared accordingly, except that a particular matter may be recalendared at the direction of the designated Administrative Law Judge.
 - (c) The appeal shall be brought by serving a Notice of Appeal upon CPSD, and the respondent shall indicate the grounds for the appeal in the notice. CPSD shall promptly advise the Chief Administrative Law Judge upon receipt of a timely Notice of Appeal.
 - (d) Upon advice from CPSD that a citation has been appealed, the Chief Administrative Law Judge shall promptly forward the matter to the

designated Administrative Law Judge, who shall set the matter for hearing on the first Citation Calendar not less than 10 days after advice of the appeal is received from CPSD. The Administrative Law Judge may, for good cause shown or upon agreement of the parties, grant a reasonable continuance of the hearing.

- (e) The respondent may order a transcript of the hearing, and shall pay the cost of the transcript in accordance with the Commission's usual procedures.
- (f) The respondent shall be entitled to the services of an interpreter at the Commission's expense upon written request to the Chief Administrative Law Judge not less than three business days prior to the date of the hearing.
- (g) The respondent may be represented at the hearing by an attorney or other representative, but such representation shall be at the respondent's sole expense.
- (h) At the hearing, CPSD shall open and close. The Administrative Law Judge may, in his or her discretion, alter the order of presentation. Formal rules of evidence do not apply, and all relevant and reliable evidence may be received in the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge.
- (i) Ordinarily, the appeal shall be submitted at the close of the hearing. In the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge upon a showing of good cause, the record may be kept open for a reasonable period to permit a party to submit additional evidence or argument.
- (j) The Administrative Law Judge shall issue an order resolving the appeal not later than 30 days after the appeal is submitted, and the order shall be placed on the first available agenda, consistent with the Commission's applicable rules.
- (k) From the date that CPSD receives a Notice of Appeal to and including the date when the final order is issued, neither the respondent nor the investigator, or agent or other person on behalf of the respondent or investigator, may communicate regarding the appeal, orally or in writing, with a Commissioner, Commissioner's advisor, or Administrative Law Judge, except as expressly permitted under these procedures.
- 5. *New Operating Authority*. A carrier whose license has been revoked hereunder may apply for new operating authority upon paying the fine in full. The application shall document (1) full payment of the fine, (2) correction of all violations for which the carrier was cited, (3) actions the carrier proposes in

order to prevent future violations, and (4) any other evidence demonstrating the carrier's ability and commitment to conducting its proposed operations in compliance with statutes and Commission orders.

This resolution becomes effective today.

I certify that this resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on September 22, 2005, the following Commissioners approving it:

/s/ STEVE LARSON

STEVE LARSON Executive Director

MICHAEL R. PEEVEY President GEOFFREY F. BROWN SUSAN P. KENNEDY DIAN M. GRUENEICH JOHN A. BOHN Commissioners

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have on this day served the following documents on

Name: The Ants Express TCP-42455

- 1. Administrative Citation T.2025-01-003
- 2. Citation Compliance Agreement
- 3. Investigation Report and Attachments
- 4. Credit/Debit Card Authorization Form
- 5. How to File an Appeal
- 6. Notice of Appeal Form and Certificates of Service Form (from Resolution ALJ-377)
- 7. Resolution ALJ-187
- 8. Certificate of Service

Date: January 14, 2025

<u>La Tasha James</u>

LaTasha James TEB Enforcement Analyst

Case # CSE-000257

Date: 1/14/2025