



Public Utilities Commission
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITATION FOR VIOLATION
OF PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE

To: Luis Orlando Escobar Sandino



File: Unlicensed

Citation#: T.2026-07-013

Date: July 30, 2026

Case #: CSE-1061

VIOLATIONS

You are hereby cited with having violated a section of the Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order (G.O.) as described below. This violation occurred on July 29, 2026.

- (1) Operated as a Charter-party carrier without authority in violation of Pub. Util. Code Section 5371 **[1 count]**

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

RESPONSE

TEB 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 August 19, 2026. By way of such answer, you may either:

- (1) Pay a fine of \$1,500 pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 5378. (Submit your payment online via TCP Portal (<https://tcpportal.cpuc.ca.gov/s/login/>) using a credit card, ACH or check. 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 August 19, 2026, 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.

Eric Hooks

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



Public Utilities Commission

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITATION COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT

File No.: Unlicensed
Citation #: T.2026-07-013
Date: July 30, 2026
Case #: CSE-1061

I (we) hereby agree to comply with this citation dated July 30, 2026, and herewith pay the fine of \$1,500.

Luis Orlando Escobar Sandino

[Redacted Signature]

(Signature)

(Title)

(Date)

Payment is to be submitted online via TCP Portal (<https://tcpportal.cpuc.ca.gov/s/login/>) using a credit card, ACH, or check. Payment via credit card is recommended as it provides real-time verification, whereas ACH payments take two days to clear with the bank.

INVESTIGATION REPORT

DRIVER: Luis Orlando Escobar Sandino

REGISTERED OWNER: G Teixeira Jao Lucas

AUTHORITY: None (Unlicensed)

MAILING ADDRESS:

[REDACTED]

PHONE/EMAIL:

[REDACTED]

VEHICLE: 1 (License Plate # [REDACTED], VIN [REDACTED])

**PUBLIC LIABILITY &
PROPERTY DAMAGE
INSURANCE:** N/A

**WORKERS'
COMPENSATION
INSURANCE:** N/A

DRUG CONSORTIUM: N/A

INTRODUCTION

On July 29, 2026, I was assigned to investigate the practices of Mr. Luis Orlando Escobar Sandino (hereinafter referred to as Mr. Sandino). This assignment was made after the California Highway Patrol (CHP) impounded Mr. Sandino's 2019 Honda Fit since Mr. Sandino was driving for Lyft while utilizing another individual's Lyft driver account.

VIOLATIONS

The investigation for the date of July 29, 2026, disclosed violations of the following provisions of the Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code and Commission General Order (G.O.):

- Operated as a Charter-party carrier without authority in violation of Pub. Util. Code Section 5371. **[1 count]**

On July 29, 2026, CHP conducted a traffic stop on Mr. Sandino's 2019 Honda Fit (license plate [REDACTED]) for a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane violation. During the stop, CHP learned that Mr. Sandino was providing transportation services through the Lyft platform and was transporting one passenger, Liliana. CHP also determined that Mr. Sandino's identity did not match the driver's information displayed on the Lyft App. As a result, CHP impounded Mr. Sandino's 2019 Honda Fit.

During this investigation, Mr. Sandino did not provide a California driver license, and CHP identified the driver's identity as Luis Orlando Escobar Sandino by his Republica De Nicaragua Passport. CHP further confirmed on the Department of Motor Vehicles' database that Mr. Sandino's driver's license status came back as "None Issued" **[Attachment 1]**.

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 July 30, 2026, in San Francisco, California.

Mingfeng Li

Mingfeng Li, TEB Enforcement Analyst

List of Attachment(s)

- Attachment 1 – CHP Investigation Report (7/29/2026)

Attachment 1

CHP Investigation Report

☐ SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORT (REFER TO G.O. 100.98) ☐ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (REFER TO HPIM) ☐ MISSING PERSON ☐ HATE CRIME

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

ARREST – INVESTIGATION REPORT
CHP 216 (Rev. 12-24) OPI 061

☒ Misdemeanor
☐ Felony
☐ Other
☐ GC 910

		☐ WITNESS ☐ PASSENGER		BUS:	
				RES:	
				BUS:	
VICTIM INFORMATION					
1 NAME		ADDRESS			
BIRTHDATE	SEX	DRIVER'S LICENSE		STATE	DAY PHONE
VEH. LIC. #		STATE	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL
					COLOR
				BODY TYPE	
2 NAME		ADDRESS			
BIRTHDATE	SEX	DRIVER'S LICENSE		STATE	DAY PHONE
VEH. LIC. #		STATE	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL
					COLOR
				BODY TYPE	

MISDEMEANOR INCARCERATION (To be completed upon physical arrest for any misdemeanor, pursuant to Section 853.6 of the Penal Code.)

As determined by the arresting officer, the person arrested:

1. ☐ was so intoxicated as to be a danger to himself or others.
2. ☐ required medical examination or medical care or was otherwise unable to care for their own safety.
3. ☐ was arrested under one or more of the circumstances listed in Sections 40302 and 40303 of the California Vehicle Code (Note 5 and 8 if also applicable).
4. ☐ had one or more outstanding arrest warrants issued.
5. ☐ could not provide satisfactory evidence of personal identification.
6. ☐ If released immediately, would jeopardize the prosecution of the offense or offenses for which arrested or the prosecution of any other offenses.
7. ☐ would be reasonably likely to continue the offense or offenses, or the safety of persons or property would be imminently endangered if immediately released.
8. ☐ demanded to be taken before a magistrate or refused to sign the citation.
9. ☐ would not appear at the time and place specified in the notice.
10. ☐ Other:

Escobar Sandino, Luis Orlando

ARREST — INVESTIGATION REPORT NARRATIVE (CONTINUED)

ADMONITION OF RIGHTS

1. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT. 3. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO TALK WITH AN ATTORNEY AND TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY PRESENT BEFORE AND DURING QUESTIONING. 4. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD AN ATTORNEY, ONE WILL BE APPOINTED FREE OF CHARGE TO REPRESENT YOU BEFORE AND DURING QUESTIONING, IF YOU DESIRE.
2. ANYTHING YOU SAY CAN AND WILL BE USED AGAINST YOU IN A COURT OF LAW.

THE ABOVE STATEMENT WAS READ TO THE ARRESTEE BY:

☒ NOT ADVISED☐ ARRESTING OFFICER☐ OR:

ID:

TIME:

DO YOU UNDERSTAND EACH OF THESE RIGHTS I HAVE EXPLAINED TO YOU?

☐ YES ☐ NO

HAVING THESE RIGHTS IN MIND, DO YOU WISH TO TALK TO US NOW?

☐ YES ☐ NO

WAIVER STATEMENT

1 CASE IDENTIFICATION:

2

3 California Highway Patrol San Francisco Area, Case Number: [REDACTED] Citation # [REDACTED]

4

5 SUSPECT:

6

7 Luis Orlando Escobar Sandino (S-1)

8 [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 Charges Investigated:

14

• 5371 Public Utility Code

15

• 21655.5 (b) Vehicle Code

16

• 12500(a) Vehicle Code

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18 SUMMARY:

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20 On 7/29/2026, I was on routine patrol in a fully marked black and white California Highway Patrol (CHP) patrol
21 vehicle, number 1590150, and was wearing my full CHP uniform. At approximately, 0846 hours, Officer T.
22 Leviste #18371, requested for my assistance on an enforcement stop. I informed Officer Leviste that I was on an
23 enforcement stop and to relocate the subject to the CHP San Francisco area office. I contacted Officer Leviste at
24 approximately 0905 hours at the CHP San Francisco area office parking lot.

25

26 Officer Leviste, informed me that he stopped the Honda Fit displaying California License Plate [REDACTED] for
27 a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) violation, a violation of California Vehicle Code 21655.5(b). Officer Leviste
28 advised me the S/V was an active Transportation Network Company (TNC) vehicle, and the driver did not match
29 the Lyft platform ride share profile. At that time, I took over the investigation.

30

31

Escobar Sandino, Luis Orlando**ARREST — INVESTIGATION REPORT NARRATIVE (CONTINUED)**

1 I contacted the driver, who was identified as Luis Orlando Escobar Sandino (S-I) by a photo of his Republica De
2 Nicaragua passport. A Department of Motor Vehicle, Driver License search revealed a California Driver's License
3 Number [REDACTED] with a status of "None Issued." I requested for S-I's Lyft waybill, which S-I showed me his
4 telephone (refer to photograph attachment). S-I's Lyft ride detailed the passenger's name as [REDACTED] and the drop-
5 off at [REDACTED]

6
7 There was one passenger seated in the rear passenger seat of the S/V. I requested to view the passenger's Lyft ride
8 detail waybill which [REDACTED] provided (refer to photograph attachment). The passenger's Lyft ride detail waybill
9 displayed a drop-off to [REDACTED] by Jesus. Jesus did not match S-I's name.

10
11 I asked S-I a series of questions relating to the Lyft profile being used and S-I related in essence the following:
12 S-I was using his friend's Lyft account, Jesus Ocampo, and Jesus let S-I use the Lyft account. S-I stated S/V was
13 cleared to drive on the Lyft platform and he was in process to drive on the Lyft platform. The S/V was his friend's
14 car.

15
16 The passenger left the scene in a separate Transportation Network Company (TNC) vehicle.

17
18 I contacted Eric at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) who regulates Lyft and other Transportation
19 Network Companies (TNCs). Eric was informed of the 5371 PUC violation. CPUC requested CHP to impound
20 the S/V pursuant to California Vehicle Code 14602.9.

21
22 Officer Leviste issued a CHP 215 (SN66614), to Luis Orlando Escobar Sandino, for the violation of California
23 Vehicle Code 21655.5(b) - HOV Violation, 12500(a) - Driving Unlicensed. Luis Orlando Escobar Sandino
24 signed the CHP 215 citation.

25
26 S-I was operating a passenger vehicle for compensation without CPUC authority, in violation of California Public
27 Utility Code 5371, which requires any charter-party carrier of passengers, including TNC drivers, to obtain a
28 CPUC certificate or permit before operating for compensation. By using someone else's profile on the Lyft app,
29 S-I bypassed CPUC's required safety vetting and insurance provisions, making S-I an unauthorized and unlicensed
30 operator.

31
32 The S/V was impounded pursuant to California Vehicle Code 14602.9 (b) and was towed by Bay Bridge Towing.

Escobar Sandino, Luis Orlando

ARREST — INVESTIGATION REPORT NARRATIVE (CONTINUED)

1 RECOMMENDATIONS:

2

3 I recommend a copy of this report to be forwarded to the California Public Utilities Commission for their review
4 and any action deemed appropriate for S-1 for violation of California Public Utility Code 5371.

5

6 S-1 was operating a passenger vehicle for compensation using someone else's profile on the Lyft app. S-1
7 bypassed CPUC's required safety vetting and insurance provisions, making S-1 an unauthorized and unlicensed
8 operator.

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Escobar Sandino, Luis Orlando

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1



Driver Photograph

Photograph 2



Lyft Driver Current Ride Detail

Photograph 3



Lyft Driver Profile

Photograph 4

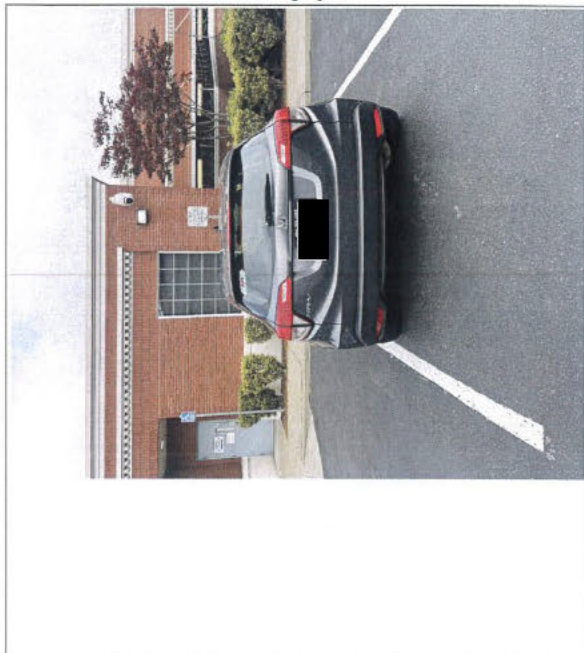


Passenger Ride Detail Screen

Escobar Sandino, Luis Orlando

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 5



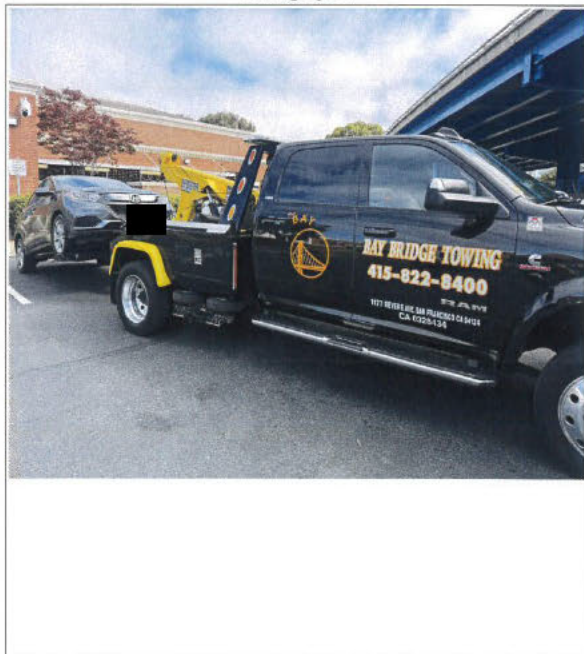
Vehicle Photograph 1

Photograph 6



Vehicle Photograph 2

Photograph 7



Vehicle Photograph 3



**Public Utilities Commission
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Request to Impound**

Indicate seating capacity of vehicle (including driver): 5

Indicate number of passengers (including driver): 1

One of the following is required:

- ☒ No TCP permit or certificate issued
- ☐ TCP/PSC: _____ (circle one) suspended, revoked, expired, or denied.
- ☐ Driver does not possess a valid and current CDL for vehicle operated license class, endorsement, or required certificate

Name of PUC Enforcement Analyst requesting impound: Steve Esguerra
Steve Esguerra

(Not required if due to driver not having valid license, endorsement, or certification for vehicle being operated)

Charge one of the following:

- ☒ CPUC 5411/1037 ref CPUC 5371/1031 - Misdemeanor/Unlawful to operate without proper PUC operating authority.
- ☐ CPUC 5411/1037 ref CPUC 5379/1045 - Misdemeanor/Unlawful to operate with suspended, revoked, or expired authority.

In body of citation indicate: "Vehicle impounded per 14602.9 CVC."

Name of person, who within 2 DAYS, notified the legal owner of the impound by certified mail:

Citing/Arresting Officer Name: CHP Officer Tam

Allied Agency Case Number: 2026-1080

Date: 7-29-26

Reason for stop and additional notes on back of this form.
Attach this form to CHP 180

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

VEHICLE REPORT

CHP 180 (Rev. 4-16) OPI 061

NOTE: CHP 180 IS FURNISHED TO ALL PEACE
OFFICERS BY THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

[REDACTED]



3

REPÚBLICA DE NICARAGUA
REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA



FIRMA DEL TITULAR - BEARER'S SIGNATURE

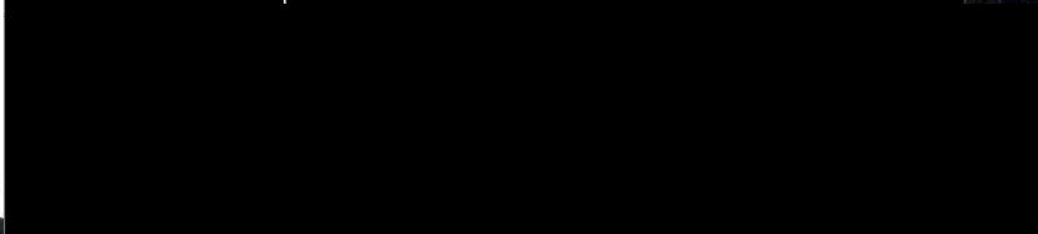
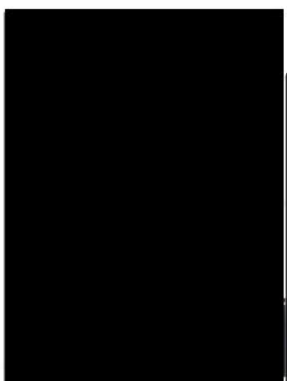
REPÚBLICA DE NICARAGUA



PASAPORTE
PASSPORT



APELLIDOS/SURNAME
ESCOBAR SANDINO
NOMBRES/GIVEN NAMES
LUIS ORLANDO
NACIONALITY



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL
NOTICE TO APPEAR
CHP 215 (REV. 01-24)

SN 66614

NOTICE TO:

☐ APPEAR IN COURT AT ☐ AM ☐ PM ON: _____
OR

☒ RESPOND TO CITATION BEFORE:

☐ To be notified

DATE

See back for detailed instructions

WHERE: ☒ SUPERIOR COURT ☐ JUVENILE

ACT BY THIS DATE TO AVOID A
WARRANT OR ADDED FEES

Date of Violation (mm/dd/yy)

Time

☒ AM

☐ PM

Day of the Week

☐ S

☐ M

☐ T

☒ W

☐ T

☐ F

☐ S

☐ 215S

☐ Crash

Name (first, middle, last)

LUIS ORLANDO ESCOBAR SANDINO

Current Address (no. street)

