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Subject: CPUC To Evaluate Ridesharing Services: CPUC Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE**

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CPUC TO EVALUATE RIDESHARING SERVICES

SAN FRANCISCO, December 20, 2012 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today said it will evaluate the safety of ridesharing businesses that utilize the Internet, social media, and location services to arrange transportation of passengers over public highways for compensation.

The CPUC, which regulates charter-party carriers, said it is opening a proceeding to protect public safety and encourage innovation in the transportation of passengers by companies such as Lyft, Sidecar, and Uber. The CPUC has a responsibility for determining whether and how public safety might be affected by these businesses.

“Our evaluation is not intended to stifle innovation and new services for consumers, but rather to assess public safety risks, and to ensure that the safety of the public is not compromised by the operation of these new transportation business models,” said CPUC President Michael R. Peevey. “Our review will ensure that our safety oversight reflects the current state of the industry and that state laws that we enforce are just and fair for all passenger carriers.”

Said Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval, “I am pleased that we have opened this Rulemaking to ensure that public safety and consumer protection are consistently applied to ride-for-hire services, including those deployed through innovative mobile applications.”

All interested parties are encouraged to participate to ensure that regulation is not a hindrance, but continues to be the safety net that the public can rely on for its protection. The issues that will be examined concern the CPUC's regulations relating to passenger carriers, ridesharing, and online-enabled transportation services. The CPUC seeks comment on issues including consumer protection and safety implications of the new methods for arranging transportation services; whether and how the new transportation business models differ from longstanding forms of ridesharing; and the new transportation business models' potential impact on insurance and transportation access.

Initial comments from parties are due in 30 days and a final decision is expected within six months.

Members of the public can comment via email to public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov or mail to CPUC Public Advisor, 505 Van Ness Ave., Room 2103, San Francisco, CA 94102.

The proposal voted on today is available at <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M036/K204/36204017.PDF>.

For more information on the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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California Public Utilities Commission

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