



9450 SW Gemini Drive  
PMB 44671  
Beaverton, OR 97008

May 30, 2025

**BY EMAIL**

Nathan Barankin, Chief of Staff, Governor Newsom  
California  
nathan.barankin@gov.ca.gov

**Re: Illegal Auxiliary LED Flashing Lights on Vehicles**

Dear Nathan Barankin,

Federal law 49 C.F.R. § 571.108(S6.2.1) prohibits the operation of auxiliary flashing lights that impair the effectiveness of federally required lighting systems. In addition, California Vehicle Code § 25250 prohibits the use of auxiliary flashing lights on vehicles that have not been explicitly permitted. The California Highway Patrol is the state agency tasked with publishing regulations for auxiliary flashing lights to ensure compliance with 49 C.F.R. § 571.108(S6.2.1) and Cal. Veh. Code § 25250. Despite these statutes and regulations, the CHP has chosen not to regulate auxiliary LED flashing light technology, thus putting the lives of first responders and the public at risk of injury or death.

The Soft Lights Foundation and Mark Baker have submitted multiple regulatory petitions to the CHP and have filed a lawsuit. Despite these actions, the CHP continues to evade their responsibility to protect CHP officers and the public from hazardous and dangerously intense LED flashing lights. The CHP uses auxiliary LED flashing lights on their vehicles, even though they are illegal.

These auxiliary LED flashing lights have been reported to cause non-epileptic and epileptic seizures, migraines, panic attacks, eye pain, impaired vision, and reduced cognitive abilities. These auxiliary LED flashing lights have also caused self-driving vehicles to crash into emergency vehicles. This has been widely reported in the media.

It makes no sense for the CHP to continue using illegal auxiliary LED flashing lights and it makes no sense for the CHP to continue ignoring their responsibilities under California law. While the Soft Lights Foundation and Mark Baker will continue filing regulatory petitions and lawsuits until the CHP acts, I am hoping that Governor Newsom can step in and direct the CHP to take action to regulate auxiliary LED flashing lights.

Here is a video showing how the extreme glare and digital flashing of auxiliary LED flashing lights on CHP vehicles which impair vision and trigger seizures both in humans and in AI self-driving vehicles, putting everyone's life at risk. (<https://youtu.be/wbJRx1wyfVM>).



Sincerely,

/s/ Mark Baker

President

Soft Lights Foundation

[mbaker@softlights.org](mailto:mbaker@softlights.org)

cc:

Sean Duryee, Commissioner, California Highway Patrol ([sduryee@chp.ca.gov](mailto:sduryee@chp.ca.gov))

Kevin Davis, Chief, Enforcement and Planning, California Highway Patrol ([KMDavis@chp.ca.gov](mailto:KMDavis@chp.ca.gov))

Rhea Mariano, California Deputy Attorney General ([Rhea.Mariano@doj.ca.gov](mailto:Rhea.Mariano@doj.ca.gov))