



9450 SW Gemini Drive
PMB 44671
Beaverton, OR 97008

June 26, 2025

BY EMAIL

Inspector General
California Department of Transportation
Ask.Investigations@dot.ca.gov

Re: Fraud, Waste, and Abuse – Illegal Auxiliary LED Flashing Lights for Vehicles

Dear Inspector General,

California Government Code § 53087.6(f)(2) states, “For purposes of this section, “fraud, waste, or abuse” means any activity by a local agency or employee that is undertaken in the performance of the employee's official duties, including activities deemed to be outside the scope of his or her employment, that is in violation of any local, state, or federal law or regulation relating to corruption, malfeasance, bribery, theft of government property, fraudulent claims, fraud, coercion, conversion, malicious prosecution, misuse of government property, or willful omission to perform duty, is economically wasteful, or involves gross misconduct.

Cal. Veh. Code § 24005 states, “It is unlawful for any person to sell, offer for sale, lease, install, or replace, either for himself or as the agent or employee of another, or through such agent or employee, any glass, lighting equipment, signal devices, brakes, vacuum or pressure hose, muffler, exhaust, or any kind of equipment whatsoever for use, or with knowledge that any such equipment is intended for eventual use, in any vehicle, that is not in conformity with this code or regulations made thereunder.”

Cal. Veh. Code § 25250 states, “Flashing lights are prohibited on vehicles except as otherwise permitted.” Cal. Code Regs. Title 13 Section 817 “otherwise permits” flashing lights that alternate on and off by controlling the current, rotating lights, and oscillating lights. Flashing lights that alternate on and off by controlling the voltage have not been “otherwise permitted”. Flashing Lights that use Light Emitting Diodes (“LEDs”) are controlled by voltage, have never been “otherwise permitted”, and thus their use on vehicles in California is illegal.

The California Department of Transportation (“Caltrans”) is purchasing and installing illegal auxiliary LED flashing lights on Caltrans vehicles, in violation of Cal. Veh. Code § 24005. This is waste, fraud, or abuse as defined in Cal. Gov. Code § 53087.6(f)(2).

The Soft Lights Foundation requests an investigation and public report on this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark Baker

President

Soft Lights Foundation

mbaker@softlights.org