

# Quarterly Travel Coordinator Meeting

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

HOSTED BY: STATEWIDE TRAVEL PROGRAM (STP)

## Housekeeping



PowerPoint slides will be shared via email after the meeting



Recording will be shared via email after the meeting



Q&A will be shared via email after the meeting

## Agenda

**Recent STP Accomplishments CalHR Updates SCO Updates** Travel Management Services (TMS) Travel Payment Services (TPS) Virtual Payments (VCN) **Airline** Lodging **Car Rental Resources & Training** 

## Recent STP Accomplishments

- Transitioned 400+ government agencies to U.S. Bank
- Transitioned 400+ government agencies to CI Azumano
- Refunded thousands of United UTCs
- Converted thousands of Southwest UTCs to UATP
- Processed 140+ state agency MM 21-07 air policy violation reports

#### DGS Travel Coordinators Meeting Business and Travel Reimbursement Program Updates



Carol Ormonde, CalHR Benefits Assistant Chief Kristine Rodrigues, CalHR Labor Relations Assistant Chief

April 10, 2024

#### Increased Meal and Short-Term Lodging Reimbursement Rates

- Effective January 1, 2024, the State implemented increases to the existing business and travel reimbursement policy for all excluded and rank-and-file\* state employees on authorized travel on or after January 1, 2024, for:
  - Meal reimbursement rates
  - Short-term lodging reimbursement rates
- For SCO CalATERS information related to changes related to Meal Reimbursement Rates
  - Dinner Receipt Requirements on or after January 1, 2024, please reference CalATERS Global Letter #24-004 released on March 18, 2024, for specific processing information.

#### (CalHR Manual Section 2203)

\*Pursuant to the rank-and-file Memorandums of Understanding, these same increases apply to all rank-and-file state employees.



#### Updated Meal Reimbursement Rates and Related Receipt Policy

Meal and Incidental Expense Category	Current Reimbursement Rate Through December 31, 2023, for Actual Expense	Effective January 1, 2024: Reimbursement Rate for Actual Expense*
Breakfast	Up to \$7	Up to \$13
Lunch	Up to \$11	Up to \$15
Dinner	Up to \$23	Up to \$26
Incidentals	Up to \$5	Up to \$5
Total Daily Maximum Allowance	Up to \$46	Up to \$59

<sup>\*</sup> Receipts are not required to claim meal and incidental expenses up to the maximum allowable reimbursement rates specified above. Receipts for meals must be maintained by the employee as substantiation that the amount claimed was not in excess of the amount of the actual expense. The employing department may request receipts at any time.



#### Updated Short-Term Lodging Reimbursement Rates

County	Current Maximum Lodging Reimbursement Rate Through December 31, 2023	Effective January 1, 2024: Maximum Lodging Reimbursement Rate
All counties except those listed below	\$90	\$107
Alameda	\$140	\$189
City of Santa Monica	\$150	\$270
Los Angeles	\$120	<b>\$169</b>
Marin	\$110	\$166
Monterey	\$125	\$184
Napa	\$95	\$195
Orange	\$120	<b>\$169</b>
Riverside	\$95	\$142
Sacramento	\$95	\$145
San Diego	\$125	\$194
San Francisco	\$250	\$270
San Mateo	\$140	\$222
Santa Clara	\$140	\$245
Ventura & Edwards AFB, excluding the city of Santa Monica	\$120	\$169



#### CalHR Resources

- CalHR Manual Section 2203 includes links to:
  - CalHR's Travel Reimbursements page.
  - CalHR's new <u>Travel Frequently Asked Questions page</u>.





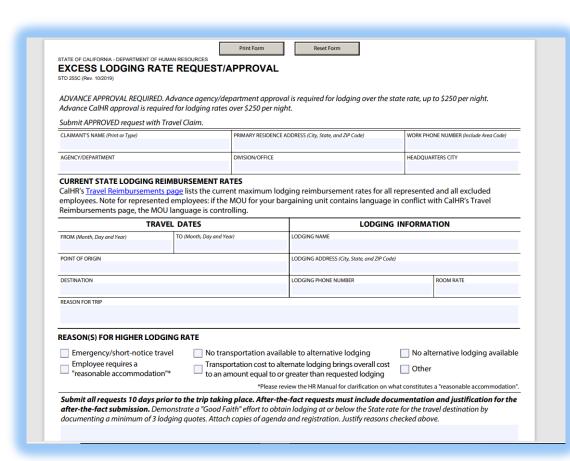




#### **EXCESS LODGING PROCESS**



#### Excess Lodging Rate Requests



Excess Lodging Rate Request process:

- Delegated authority to departments
- Types of requests (After-the-Fact Requests, Blanket Requests [Declared Emergencies, General Exemptions], Group Requests)
- Required comparison quotes
- Excess Lodging Rate Request is a form (<u>STD</u> <u>255C</u>)
  - Revision in progress
  - Will send HR Announcement once revised
- <u>CalHR Manual Section 2201</u> provides detailed information



### New Business and Travel Expense Reimbursement Program



#### Scope

The State will adopt certain federal rates for meals & incidentals, and lodging.

The State will implement related policy updates, effective upon the implementation date determined/provided by the state to the unions.



#### **Business Partners**

CalHR is collaborating with business partners, including SCO and DGS, to implement the updated program; this includes review of policies and regulations.



#### **Timeframe**

CalHR will continue to update departments as the process moves along.



## **Communication Plan**

CalHR will provide guidance and support to departments once program is implemented.



### New Business and Travel Expense Reimbursement Program

The State will update the existing business and travel expense reimbursement program to include the adoption of the federal standard meal and incidental expense rate and lodging rates established by the federal GSA.

- Adopting the federal standard meal and incidental expense rate established by the GSA at time of travel for in-state and out-of-state travel.
- Adopting federal standard and non-standard reimbursement rates at time of travel for in-state (GSA), out-of-state (Department of Defense), and out-of-country (State Department) lodging.
- Simplifying current reimbursement policy and administration and providing up to 75 percent (75%) of the federal standard rate established by the GSA for meal and incidental expense on the first and last day of travel.
- Eliminating the state's long-term travel reimbursement rates and adopting the federal standard meal and incidental expense reimbursement rates for long-term meals, and receipted lodging shall be reimbursed up to the maximum federal standard and non-standard reimbursement rates.
- The new business and travel expense reimbursement program will be implemented in 2024 for excluded employees. Application to rank and file employees is determined by the bargaining process.





## New Business and Travel Expense Reimbursement Program

#### Updated Reimbursement Processes

#### CalATERS Departments

- As noted in CalHR's Travel FAQs:
  - In partnership with the policy guidance provided by CalHR, State Controller's Office (SCO) configures CalATERS Global to accept changes related to the travel program.
  - To subscribe for CalATERS Global updates and letters, please
     visit: <a href="https://www.sco.ca.gov/calaters\_global\_letters\_subscription.html">https://www.sco.ca.gov/calaters\_global\_letters\_subscription.html</a>

#### Non-CalATERS Departments

- Departmental accounting offices should:
  - Be aware of the upcoming changes to the business and travel expense reimbursement program.
  - Prepare to update their internal processes and systems, as needed.
  - Communicate internal updates to their employees, as needed.





#### IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

TravelManager@calhr.ca.gov



## State Controller's Office (SCO)

- **Reminder**: <u>all</u> lodging expenses require a receipt from the hotel. This includes lodging that was direct-billed to an agency using virtual payment (VCN).
- STD 255C Excess Lodging forms are required for all applicable lodging expenses, including lodging that was paid with VCN.
- These requirements have always applied to VCNpaid lodging and the use of VCN does not change or negate any existing requirements for lodging.
- SCO, CalHR, and DGS have consistently affirmed these requirements.

## TMS Implementation Completed 4/5/24

- Transition from CalTravelStore to Cl Azumano
  - Working through challenges/unforeseen obstacles
  - Experiencing a high call volume
    - Adding additional travel agents
    - Book online via Concur
    - Call/email only for urgent/last minute travel/changes
    - Use Concur for price estimates/quotes

## Travel Booking Reminders

- Reminders for Travel Coordinators
  - To avoid additional transaction fees, trips should be booked in one itinerary.
  - Add a car and/or hotel reservation to an existing itinerary.
  - <u>Caltravel@ciazumano.com</u> is only for travel reservations/modifications, this is not meant for troubleshooting technical errors in Concur.

## **CI Azumano Contact Information**

Purpose:	Contact:
Travel/reservation request	<u>Caltravel@ciazumano.com</u>
Request to use unused ticket	<u>Caltravel@ciazumano.com</u>
Virtual card support – questions on a deployed card (i.e., traveler support)	<u>Caltravel@ciazumano.com</u>
Reporting question	<u>CaReports@ciazumano.com</u>
Invoice copy	www.caltravel.ciazumano.com

## CalTravelStore Reporting

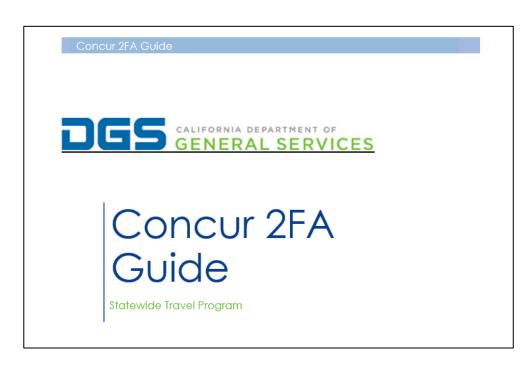
#### CalTravelStore Contact Information & Grasp Reporting

Purpose:	Contact:
Grasp Reporting	https://travelstore.graspdata.com/P
	<u>ublic/login.aspx</u>
Access to Print My Invoice	https://s2.graspdata.com/Public/Prin
	<u>tInvoice.aspx?agency=39FAC4245C</u>
	B74381B050F1E5FCB7540C
Additional questions	anthony.l@caltravelstore.com
	<u>becky.g@caltravelstore.com</u>
	david.f@caltravelstore.com

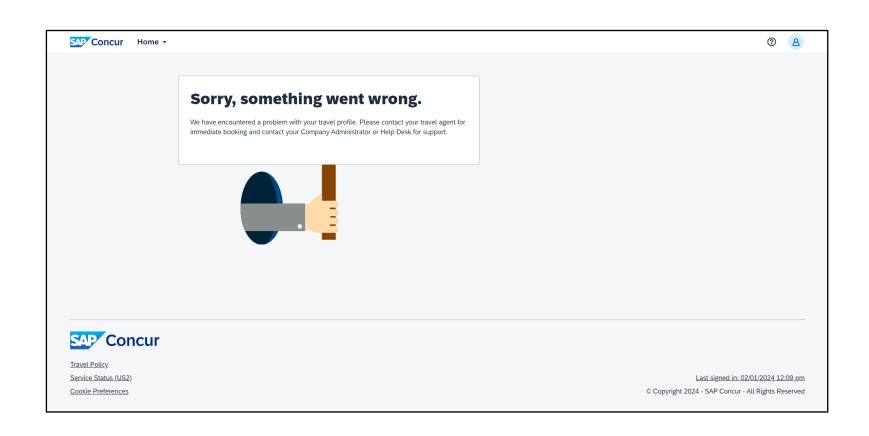
## Concur 2FA User Guide

#### Concur guides can be found on the STP Resources page

https://www.dgs.ca.gov/OFAM/Travel/Resources/Page-Content/Resources-List-Folder/Concur-Training



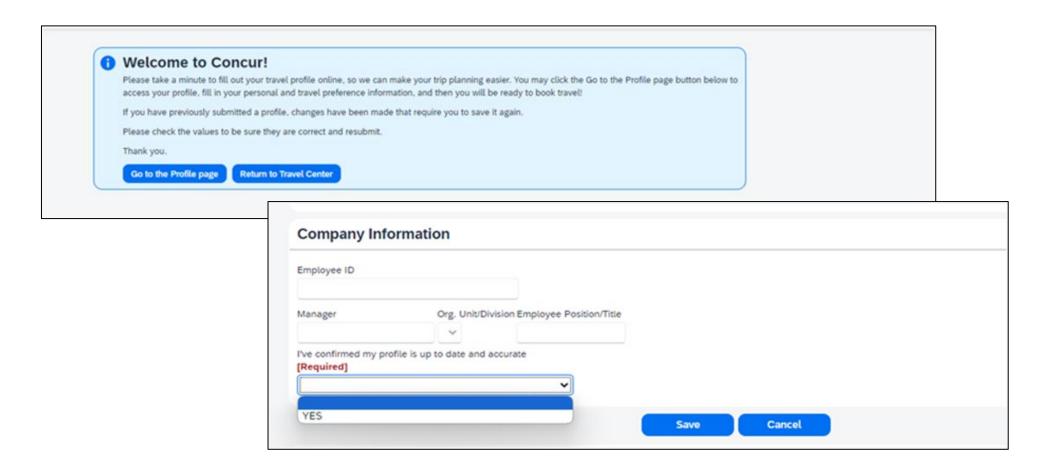
## "Sorry, Something Went Wrong..." Error in Concur



## "Sorry, Something Went Wrong..." Error in Concur



## Travel Booking Reminders



## Parking Spot Discount



- 20% discount on parking at major airports
- 10% discount of all other airports
- Free points for new joiners
- Link to State of California's discount:
  - www.theparkingspot.com/spot-club/sign-up?gCode=group\_03028

- New U.S. Bank Phone and Email Verification Process
  - Client Full Relationship Name Your department name
  - Organizational Short Name CASTP
  - Program Admin Full Name
  - Hierarchy Numbers Bank/Agent/Company
    - Access Online -> Account Information -> Cardholder Account Profile -> Search for account by the last 4 digits of the cardholder account or cardholder's name -> View Account profile.

Processing hierarchies control how systems process transactions for billing and accounting purposes. The processing hierarchy includes a 4 digit bank # that denotes product type (required), a 4 digit agent # that denotes plastic type (required), a 5 digit company # that houses settings applied to all accounts under the hierarchy (required), division # (optional), and department # (optional). Note: Each managing account number and all cardholder account numbers built under it have their own, unique Company # under the Bank # + Agent #.

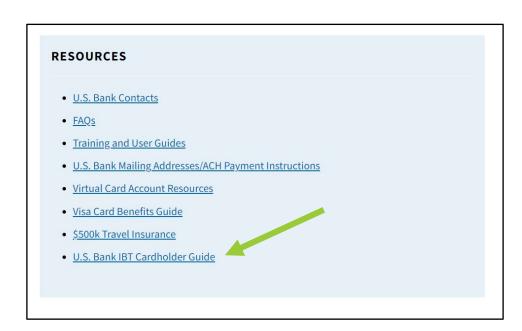
New reports delivered in U.S. Bank Access Online Data Exchange:

- Past due report
- Transaction report
- Both reports will be named as your account username
- Old report will have a date attached to it

Request Status Queue
Active Work Queue
System Administration
Account Administration
Event Driven Notification
Payment Plus
Transaction Management
Enhanced Supplier
Management
Account Information
Data Analytics
Reporting
Data Exchange
My Personal Information

ML781488.XLSX		335 KB 04/03/2024 05:48:27 AM	Delete
■ TL781646.XLSX	Evamplo	108 KB 04/03/2024 05:39:10 AM	Delete
ML781488_04_02_24_07_34_13_415.XLSX	Example	334 KB 04/02/2024 05:34:13 AM	Delete
TL781646_04_02_24_07_32_56_919.XLSX		108 KB 04/02/2024 05:32:56 AM	Delete

U.S. Bank Individual Billed Travel (IBT) Cardholder Guide (click here)



- Travel Payment Services Reminders
  - U.S. Bank Statements and Reports
    - Virtual Card Account Statements
      - SNAP Report
  - U.S. Bank Access Online
    - Customizing Reports
    - Creating/Removing Program Administrators
    - Viewing Hierarchy
    - Increasing Limits, Disputing Charges, Reviewing Declines

- U.S. Bank Support / Client Services
  - CPSPublicSectorClientServices@usbank.com or 877.846.9302 option 3
- Training videos and Reference resources (<u>click here</u>)
- Travel Payment Services Contract (<u>click here</u>)

## Virtual Payments (VCN)

- SNAP logins
  - New SNAP login for CI Azumano
  - Old SNAP login for CalTravelStore
- SNAP 2FA began April 1, 2024
- Conferma Support contact <u>support@conferma.zendesk.com</u>

## Virtual Payments (VCN)

- Communication sent to VCN agencies on April 5, 2024
  - Subject: "Please Read: Important announcement regarding cancellations and modifications to your existing Virtual Card Hotel reservations"
- Existing hotel reservations booked using VCN with CalTravelStore
  - Contact CI Azumano via phone or email to make any changes

#### **Airlines**

- Airline contracts extended through June 30, 2025
- Airline Credits (UTCs and MCOs)
  - CalTravelStore, last report: March 18, 2024
  - Cl Azumano, first report: April 18, 2024
  - Prior to TMS transition, all agencies were notified of:
    - Eligible Southwest UTCs actively being transferring to UATP.
    - Eligible United Airlines UTCs refunded to original form of payment.

#### **Airlines**

- SAM Section 4117.1
  - Semi-Annual Reports
  - FAQs on State Travel Policy webpage –
     https://www.dgs.ca.gov/OFAM/Travel/Resources/Page-Content/Resources-List-Folder/State-Travel-Policy

## Lodging

- Sunset of the California Green Lodging Program
  - Properties currently certified will remain on the program until their current certification expires.
  - STP is still committed to sustainable travel and will continue encourage travelers to seek sustainable lodging options.
  - Sustainability in business travel will return as part of STP's future Managed Lodging Program (MLP).



## Lodging

- Transition to CI Azumano
  - Working with hotel partners on state lodging rate accuracy.
  - Steps to take if state lodging rates cannot be found:
    - Step 1: Traveler contacts agency travel coordinator.
    - Step 2: Travel coordinator contacts STP.
    - Step 3: STP works with property and travel agency to rectify.

## Lodging

#### VCN

- Travelers are refusing to provide personal credit card to hotel for incidentals.
  - Personal credit card requirements are a hotel industry rule and not controlled by STP.
  - Debit cards in lieu of credit cards
    - Possible, but not recommended.
  - TCs are responsible for ensuring travelers understand VCN processes before using for hotels.
  - TCs need to educate travelers on use of virtual cards for lodging.
  - Training materials and resources available on the STP website.

#### **Car Rental**

- New CCR Travel Specialist Sarah Thomas
- Contract Extension
  - Rate Increases
- Billing Issues
  - Concur Profile Errors (Loyalty Program)
- Electric Vehicles
  - EVs in Concur
  - Swapping at the rental counter



#### **Contract Extension**

- The CCR contract with Enterprise was recently extended for twelve (12) months, through Feb. 28, 2025.
- Rate Increases
  - Please visit <u>Car Rental Resources for State Travel</u> for updated contract and rates.



## Billing Issues

- Personal Payment Required at the Counter?
  - Check for Concur Profile Errors (Loyalty Program).
  - The loyalty number in the Concur profile must match the number of the traveler's Enterprise loyalty account.



Please enter programs EXACTLY as they appear on your card, excluding spaces and dashes. Do not add any additional characters. Do not include the carrier code. If you enter a program incorrectly, you will get a profile error from the reservation system.

For example, if your card is printed "AA12345" or "John Doe/12345", your program number is "12345".

The page allows you to enter up to 5 travel programs at a time. First, select the type of program (carrier name, car rental, or hotel). Then, select the name of the company from the adjacent list. Finally, enter the program number (frequent traveler number, etc.).



#### **Your Information**

Personal Information Company Information Contact Information Email Addresses Emergency Contact Credit Cards

#### **Travel Settings**

Travel Preferences International Travel

Frequent-Traveler Programs

#### **Other Settings**

System Settings
Concur Connect
Change Password
Travel Vacation
Reassignment
Concur Mobile Registration
I'm Assisting...

#### **Profile Options**

Select one of the following to customize yo

#### Personal Information

Your home address and emergency contact

#### **Company Information**

Your company name and business address location address.

#### Credit Card Information

You can store your credit card information have to re-enter it each time you purchase

#### **Travel Profile Options**

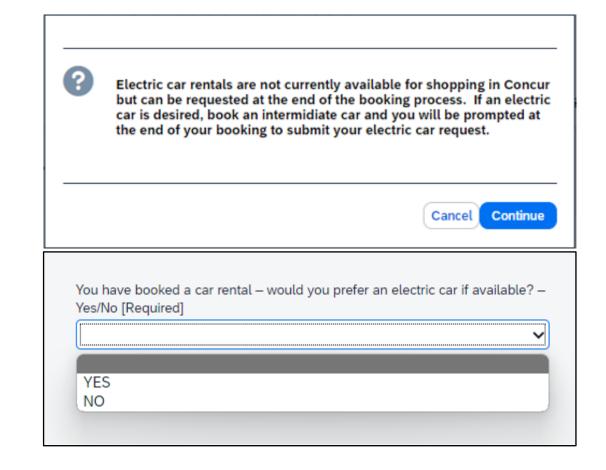
Carrier, Hotel, Rental Car and other travel-r

#### **Change Password**

Change your password.

#### **Electric Vehicles**

- EV is the preferred vehicle type for all commercial car rentals when traveling less than 200 miles per rental.
- Travelers DO NOT need to submit a DGS OFAM 100 Form for EV rentals.
- Electric car rentals are not currently available for shopping in Concur but can be requested at the end of the booking process. If an electric car is desired, book an Intermediate car and you will be prompted at the end of your booking to submit your electric car request.



### **Electric Vehicles Cont...**

- Not enough charge?
  - Request to swap EVs or ask for gas vehicle



#### Resources

#### **Statewide Travel Program**

- Website: www.dgs.ca.gov/ofam/travel
- Email: statewidetravelprogram@dgs.ca.gov
- Phone: 916.376.3974

#### **CI Azumano**

- Website: www.caltravel.ciazumano.com
- Email: caltravel@ciazumano.com
- Phone: 916.376.3989 or 877.454.8785

## Upcoming Trainings

#### **Concur Training**

- May 7, 2024 ~ 10:00am 11:00am PST
- August 8, 2024 ~ 10:00am 11:00am PST
- November 6, 2024 ~ 10:00am 11:00am PST

#### **VCN SNAP Training**

- April 29, 2024 ~ 2:00pm 3:00pm PST
- July 29, 2024 ~ 2:00pm 3:00pm PST
- October 28, 2024 ~ 2:00pm 3:00pm PST



## THANK YOU!

STATEWIDE TRAVEL PROGRAM