## Quarterly Travel Coordinator Meeting

June 5, 2025



## Housekeeping



## PowerPoint, recording, and Q&A will be shared



#### Type questions into Q&A



## Agenda

Topic	Slides	
Statewide Travel Program (STP) Staff	4	
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## Airlines Jennifer Miller



#### **Communications from Statewide Travel Program**

Statewide Travel Program has sent out communications regarding Southwest process changes, policy reminders, and information updates:

- Southwest Policy Changes: Bag Fees Announcement, April 30, 2025
- o Southwest Basic Fare Announcement, May 7, 2025
- Southwest Airline Policy Changes Presentation Resources, May 16, 2025
- Southwest UTC to UATP Process Change, May 28, 2025
- New Southwest Policy Changes, May 29, 2025

#### **Southwest Airlines Policy Changes**

The Statewide Travel Program hosted a meeting for Travel Coordinators on May 13, 2025, to announce Southwest Airlines Fare Policy Changes taking effect May 28, 2025.

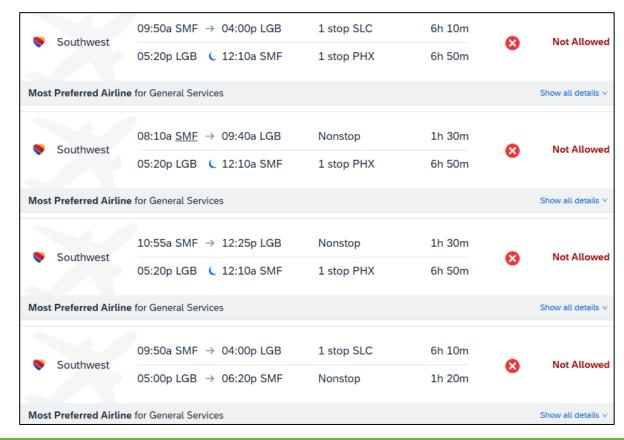
- The presentation material was emailed to all Travel Coordinators on May 16, 2025.
- An additional informational guide on the new Southwest Policy Changes was emailed to all Travel Coordinators on May 29, 2025.
- Announced in the May 13 meeting, Southwest will host an exclusive Q&A session for state agencies in quarter three of this year. A meeting invite will go out to all Travel Coordinators.

#### Southwest Airlines Policy Changes – Basic Fare

- The Southwest Basic fare is blocked on all state agency Concur sites.
- The preferred fare is now 'Wanna Get Away Plus,' non-refundable, <u>SAM section 4117.1</u> compliant.
- Known issue: All Southwest fares appear to be blocked when displaying search results, but this is not accurate. Only 'Basic' and 'Business Select' are blocked.
  - CI Azumano is working to fix this issue.
  - o There are options to see the fares, which we have provided in screen shots on the next slides.

#### Southwest Airlines Policy Changes – Basic Fare Continued

- After entering trip details, Concur displays search results by price.
- The 'Basic' fare in most cases is the lowest price.
- The 'Basic' fare is blocked for state agencies.
- Travelers can still view all fares in the search results.



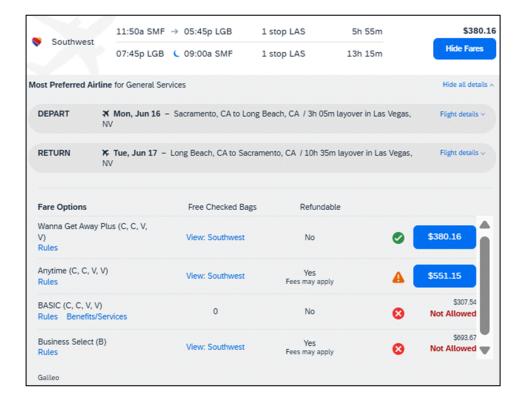
#### Southwest Airlines Policy Changes – Basic Fare Continued

Travelers will need to select 'Show all details' under each trip option to show all available fares:



#### Southwest Airlines Policy Changes – Basic Fare Continued

- Until this is fixed, travelers will see the four Southwest fare options shown here.
- The 'Wanna Get Away Plus' and 'Anytime' fares are available to select.



- As a reminder, the 'Anytime' fare does require a reason code to book out of policy.
- Nothing has changed with this process.

#### Airline Agreements Update

New Airline Agreements will be effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. A Travel Bulletin will be released very soon.

- The Statewide Travel Program is finalizing airline agreements with four preferred carriers:
  - Alaska Airlines
  - Delta Airlines
  - Southwest Airlines
  - United Airlines
- The new agreements offer discounts of 3%-9% across applicable markets and airline partners.
- State travelers will be charged bag fees on all Southwest flights starting July 1, 2025.
  - Southwest bag fees are \$35 for the first bag and \$45 for the second.

## Southwest Unused Ticket Credit (UTC) to Universal Air Travel Plan (UATP) - Process Updates

- On May 28, 2025, the Statewide Travel Program (STP) emailed all Travel Coordinators the process change. Please review that email as it contains important information on your agency's UTCs that have not yet expired.
- The new Southwest fare policy has changed unused ticket credit expiration to 12 months.
- STP is taking a proactive approach with Southwest unused ticket credits that were issued under the old fare policy, that do not expire.
- STP is updating our <u>website</u> and <u>airfare resources page</u> with this new process.

Please direct any questions to **StatewideTravelProgram@dgs.ca.gov**.

## Car Rentals Sarah Thomas



## Car Rentals Enterprise Contacts

Reminder: Enterprise has two centralized email addresses.

- For general account inquires or new accounts: <u>CalGovAcctSup@ehi.com</u>
- o For account billing inquiries/disputes: **TSS StateofCA@em.com**
- Research Template

### **Car Rentals**

#### **Toll Charges**

Toll charges must be paid by the traveler on time.

- Tolls are digitized and payable online.
- Employees are expected to prepare for trips by researching potential tolls.
- There is no acceptable justification for nonpayment of tolls and penalty fees.
  - Tolls not paid on time will receive penalty fees that are also the responsibility of the traveler.

For reimbursement information, visit <u>Human Resources Manual - CalHR</u> or email CalHR at <u>TravelManager@calhr.ca.gov</u>.

### **Car Rentals**

#### **Direct Billing for Tolls**

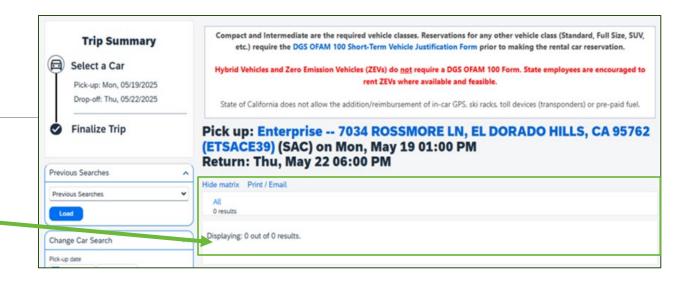
Direct billing of tolls is not automatic.

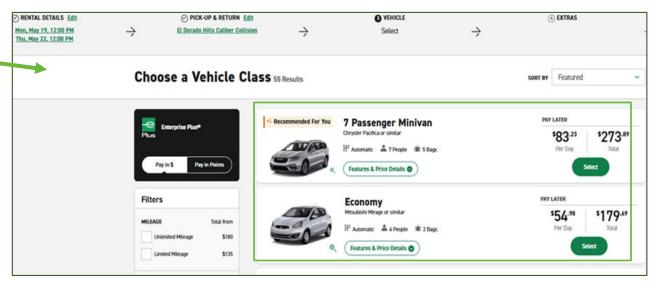
- Agencies must opt-into this service. To learn more, visit our <u>Car Rental Resources for State Travel</u> webpage.
- To set-up direct bill tolls with Enterprise, agency Travel Coordinators need to email <u>StatewideTravelProgram@dgs.ca.gov</u>, Attention: Commercial Car Rental Analyst and request the additional service.

### Car Rentals

#### Rentals Not Available in Concur

- Certain locations were showing no vehicles available in Concur.
- This glitch should be resolved.
- If you run into this, check <u>Enterprise.com</u> to confirm vehicle availability.
- If vehicles are available at the desired location but not in Concur, reach out to <u>StatewideTravelProgram@dgs.ca.gov</u>, Attention: Commercial Car Travel Specialist.





# **Lodging**Katy Harlow



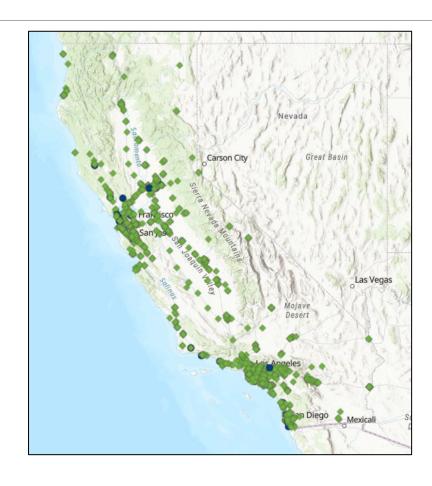
#### Preferred Hotel Program (PHP) Status

- Concur booking compliance
  - 2024: Average of 50% compliance.
  - o 2025: Average of 65.8% compliance.
- Preferred Hotel Program compliance at 45.9%
  - o Only January-April 2025.
  - o Implementation of Preferred Hotel Program and Concur programming are factors.

	Hotel Attachment	Property Compliance	Rate Compliance	Fair Rate Compliance
Bookings	46,487	21,323	9,479	5,995
Difference in Bookings (Compliance) from the Previous along Comparison Period				
% Difference in Bookings (Compliance) from the Previous along Comparison Period				
Compliance Percent	100.0%	45.9%	20.4%	12.9%
Difference in Compliance Percent from the Previous along Comparison Period				
% Difference in Compliance Percent from the Previous along Comparison Period				

#### **Increasing PHP Visibility**

- o FAQ's to be updated on our website.
- Lodging Resources to be updated.
- Coming Soon: Interactive Map for the Preferred Hotel Program.
  - Search for Preferred Hotel Program properties
  - Cross reference with amenities
  - Preferred Hotel Program Interactive Map



#### **Next Steps for Preferred Hotel Program**

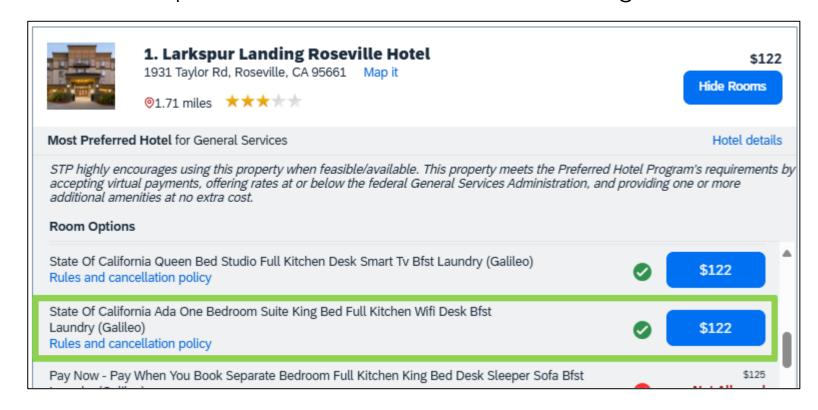
- Preparing for next round of solicitations.
  - The Preferred Hotel Program will soon follow the federal cycle, October 1, 2025 September 30, 2026.
- Help us include out-of-state hotels.
  - Agencies with out-of-state offices
  - Preferred out-of-state properties
  - Email <u>DGSHotelProgram@dgs.ca.gov</u>

#### **Conferma and Hilton Hotels**

- New direct integration with Conferma
  - Virtual Card Number is sent directly to hotel's payment system.
  - Smooth check-in process.
  - Eliminates Virtual Card Number acceptance issues.
- Preferred Hotel Program
  - 109 Hilton properties participating statewide.
  - Remind your travelers to book Preferred or Most Preferred when booking Hilton properties.

## Lodging Booking an ADA Room in Concur

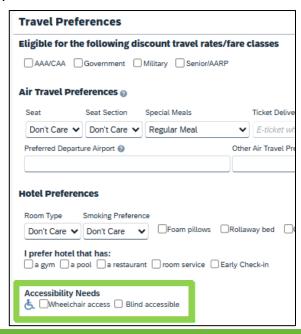
#### Most brands provide an ADA/accessible room listing within Concur



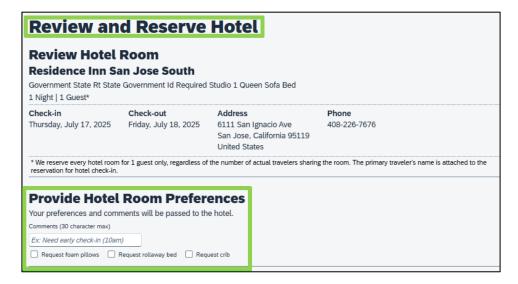
#### **Marriott ADA Rooms**

No ADA listings in Concur for Marriott properties.

 Make sure traveler has ADA preferences in Concur profile.



 On the "Review and Reserve Hotel" screen during the booking process, enter ADA room preference.



 Contact property to ensure ADA room is available.

## Travel Management Services Brenda Shields



## Travel Management Services

#### **Group Reservations**

- Groups are 10 or more travelers.
- Ways to book for a group
  - Email: <u>CalTravelGroups@ciazumano.com</u>
  - o Phone: 1 (877) 454-8785, Option 4

#### **Things to Consider**

- Have group information available.
- Know your credit card's Card Verification Value (CVV).



 To prevent delays, look out for emails that require your attention or action.

## Travel Management Services

Group Booking Template

- New, easy way to submit your group travel request.
- Template includes space for all information needed to start your group booking process.

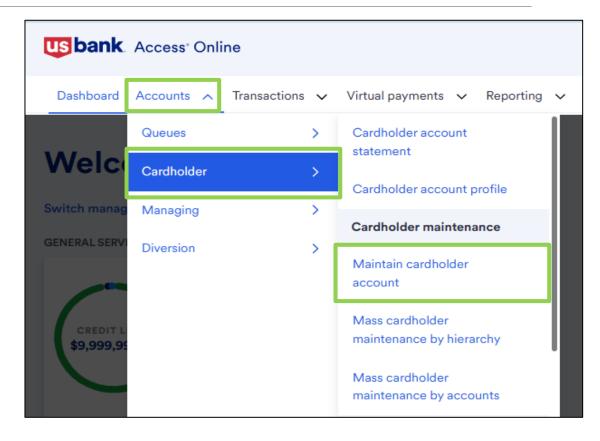
GROUP PROGRAM PROFILE					
Program Name:					
Contact Name:	Phone:		Fax:		
Address:					
City:	State: ZIP Code:				
Email:	Preferred Meth		hod of Contact (Select all that apply):  Phone Email Fax		
	AIR	BOOKING INFORMA	TION		
Location of Meeting:					
Arrival Date:		Arrival Location:			
Departure Date:	Departure Date:		Departure Location:		
Time First Function Begins:		Time Last Function Ends:			
FORM OF PAYMENT – GROUP INFORMATION					
Estimated # Attendees: Number of	Sleeping Rooms:		Double or Single Occupancy:		
			Double Single		
Please List VIP's for the group and any special consider	ations required:				
Form of payment (Select all that apply):  Credit Card Conferma Individual Credit Card					
Paying for: Attendee Only   Attendee Plus One   Hotel Rooming List Preparation by CI Azumano?  Yes   No   No					
CI Azumano Booking Airline tickets  Yes   No					
HOTEL INFORMATION					
Hotel Name:					
Address:					
City:	State, Zip:		Phone:		
Hotel Booked by CI Azumano as Agent:  Yes No No Ground Transfers Contracted by CI Azumano:  Bus # Required: Shuttle # Required:					
Airport Name for Ground Transport Pick-up:					
Date:					
CLICK to Email Form  Click to Clear Data					

## Travel Management Services

#### How to Find the CVV

You must be a Program Administrator in U.S. Bank Access Online to perform this search.

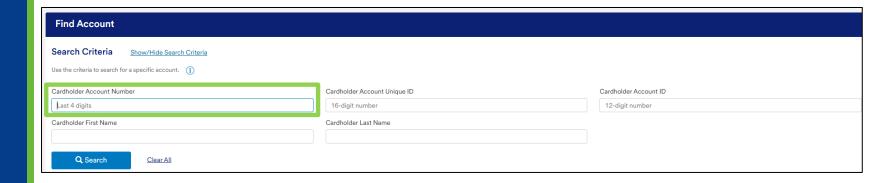
- o From the 'Welcome' page, click 'Accounts.'
- Select 'Cardholder.'
- Under 'Cardholder maintenance,' click 'Maintain cardholder account.'



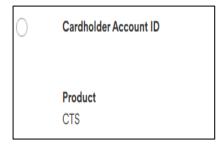
## Travel Management Services

How to find the CVV Continued

 Enter the last 4 digits of the credit card in the 'Cardholder Account Number' box.



 Locate the Cardholder Account with the Product "CTS," and click on the check circle.



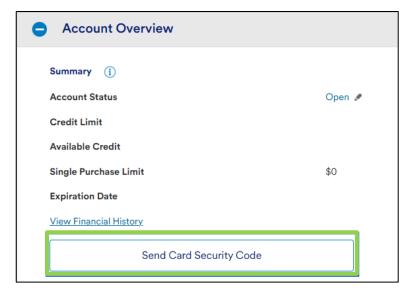
## Travel Management Services

How to find the CVV Continued

Select 'Confirm' at the bottom of the right corner.



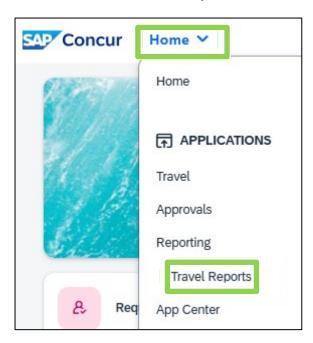
 Navigate to 'Account Overview' and click on 'Send Card Security Code.'



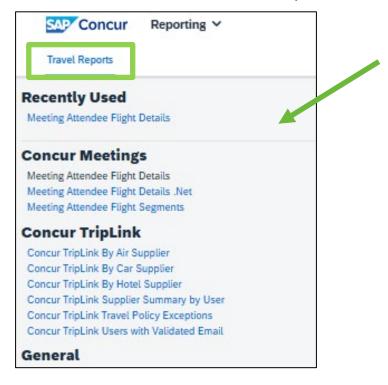
## Travel Management Services

#### **Concur Reports**

- Log into Concur.
- Click 'Home,' 'Travel Reports.'



 When the page loads, the left side of the screen will show all available reports.



# Travel Management Services

**Concur Reports** 

#### User Concur Travel History Report



#### **Unused Ticket Report**



#### Guest Travel Booking Information



## Travel Payment Services Donna Brown



## **Travel Payment Services**

#### Friendly Reminders - Process Changes

#### Transactions that require a CVV

- o CI Azumano will email the Program Administrator or Travel Coordinator for assistance.
- o CVV Guide: February 6, 2025, email from Statewide Travel Program.
- o If further help is needed, the Program Administrator or Travel Coordinator can contact <a href="mailto:StatewideTravelProgram@dgs.ca.gov">StatewideTravelProgram@dgs.ca.gov</a> for help.

## **Travel Payment Services**

#### Friendly Reminders - Process Changes Continued

#### **Declined Transactions**

- CI Azumano will email the Program Administrator or Travel Coordinator for assistance.
- o Declined Transaction Guide: February 6, 2025, email from Statewide Travel Program.
- o If further additional support is needed, the Program Administrator or Travel Coordinator can contact <a href="mailto:StatewideTravelProgram@dgs.ca.gov">StatewideTravelProgram@dgs.ca.gov</a> for help.

#### **Access Online**

#### Are you a Program Administrator?

- Online & call-in access with U.S. Bank
  - Reports
  - Statements
  - CVV & Declined Transactions
  - Add, remove and edit User Profile and Points of Contact

#### **U.S. Bank Client Services**

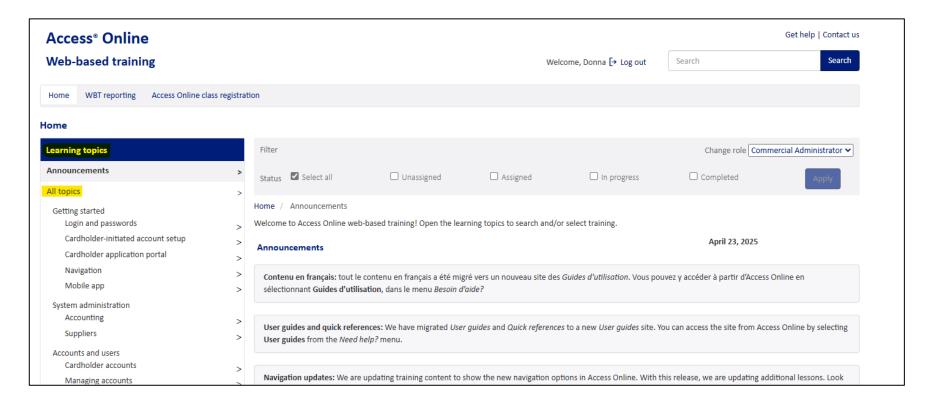
- o Phone: 1 (877) 846-9302, option 3
- Email: <u>CPSPublicSectorClientServices@usbank.com</u> (allow 24 hours for response)

#### Training for Program Administrators – Access Online

Access Online has many training opportunities for you as a Program Administrator.



#### Training for Program Administrators – Access Online Continued



#### **Past Due Amounts**

- If your department receives an email stating there is a past due amount, you can view this amount in the Past Due Report via Access Online.
- A friendly reminder that depending on when your payment was submitted and when the statement was generated, it might not appear on the statement or immediately reflect on the Past Due Report.
- Please respond to the past due email notification by emailing U.S. Bank with payment details.
  - Warrant number
  - Amount
  - Date sent

#### **Past Due Reporting**

If you have trouble running the Past Due Report or need assistance understanding your past due balance, please reach out to U.S. Bank Client Services.

- o Phone: 1 (877) 846-9302, option 3
- Email: <u>CPSPublicSectorClientServices@usbank.com</u> (allow 24 hours for response)

#### **Payment Reminders**

If the managing account is past due and in suspension status (90+ days past due):

- Use the U.S. Bank Overnight Delivery address, with tracking.
- This can dramatically cut posting time and resolve the suspension.

#### **Pre-Suspension Notifications / Actions**

U.S. Bank and Statewide Travel Program email notifications to the Program Administrator & Point of Contacts:

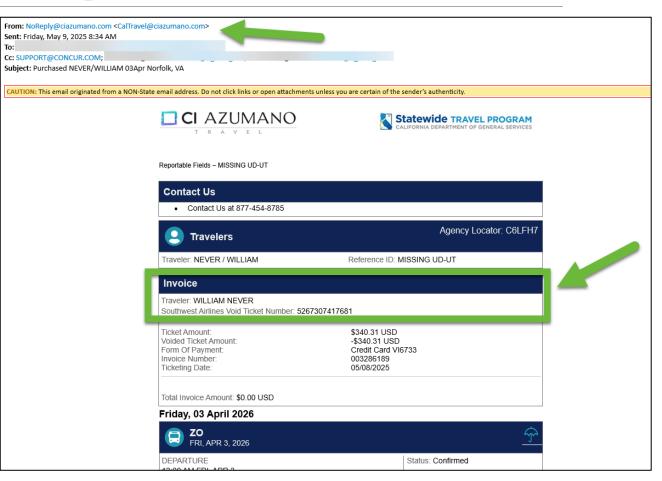
• Please respond to U.S. Bank with payment details to clear past due amount(s).

# Travel Policy and Compliance Samantha Hernandez



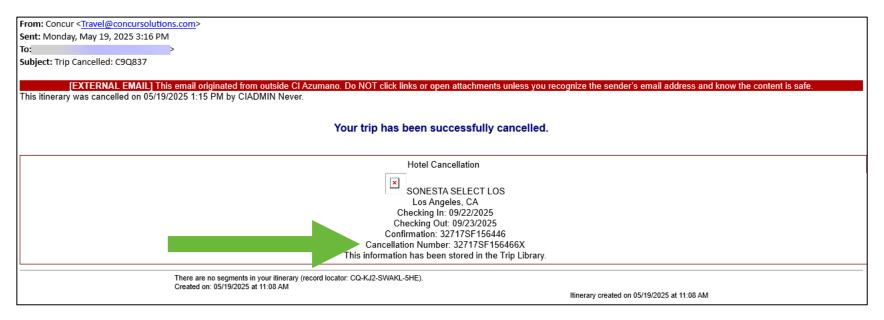
#### **Cancelling Travel**

- Travelers will receive a cancellation email from CI Azumano for:
  - Entire trip cancellation.
  - Cancellation of a trip segment.
- The cancellation email is sent whether the cancellation was through Concur or through a CI Azumano travel agent.
- If a traveler does not receive a cancellation email, they should followup with CI Azumano by calling 1 (877) 454-8785 or Caltravel@ciazumano.com.



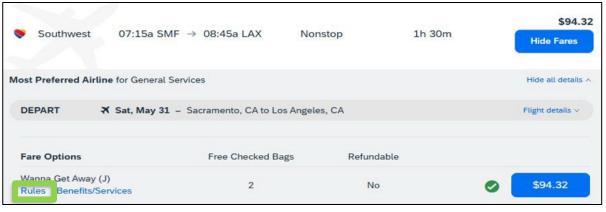
#### **Cancelling a Hotel**

 When cancelling a hotel, you will receive a cancellation number within the cancellation email.



#### **Cancelling Airfare**

- Each airline has their own cancellation policy that must be followed.
- Fare rules can be found in Concur, under "Rules," when selecting flight options.



#### **Cancelling Southwest Airfare**

- Southwest Airlines allows travelers to cancel up to 10 minutes prior to departure.
- Travelers can cancel via Concur.
- If a traveler already checked into the flight or flew a portion of the flight and still wishes to cancel, they must call a CI Azumano agent at 1 (877) 454-8785.

#### **Suspended Tickets**

- If airfare is not properly cancelled, it will result in a suspended ticket commonly referred to as a "No-Show".
  - Each agency will receive a monthly email from <u>STPAudits@dgs.ca.gov</u> notifying them of the suspended tickets.
- No-show/non-cancelation will result in forfeit of funds to the airline.
- No Unused Ticket Credit (UTC) will be generated for a suspended airline ticket.
- Statewide Travel Program encourages Travel Coordinators to investigate why the reservation was not canceled on time by the employee.
- If the agency believes the cancelation policy was followed, they must provide documentation to Statewide Travel Program for further investigation.

# Virtual Payments Nhan Cao



Hotel Acceptance of Virtual Card Program Credit Card Authorization Form Not all hotels accept the credit card authorization form issued by Conferma. Each hotel has its own payment policies, and some may require their own credit card authorization form, even if the reservation is booked using the virtual card form of payment.

If a hotel does **not** accept the virtual card or the credit card authorization form, you will be notified with the following message in Concur:



#### 4. La Quinta Inn John Wayne Orange Cty Arpt

1515 S Coast Dr, Costa Mesa, CA 92626-1529 Map it

⊚10.03 miles ★★★★★

Hide Rooms

Hotel details

\$86

\*Important Note: If your agency participates in the virtual card program, this property does not accept virtual cards. If you choose to proceed with the hotel reservation, you will be required to provide a personal form of payment for the room rate/tax/fees upon checkin, and then seek reimbursement from your agency.

**Hotel Acceptance of Virtual Card Program Credit Card Authorization Form** Continued

We advise that travelers only book "Preferred" and "Most Preferred" hotels because they have agreed to accept the virtual payments from our travelers.



#### 8. Sacramento Marriott Rancho Cordova

11211 Point East Dr. Rancho Cordova, CA 95742 Map it

Hide Rooms

⊚9.78 miles ★★★★★

#### Preferred Hotel for General Services

Hotel details

\$150

STP encourages using this property when feasible/available. This property meets the Preferred Hotel Program's requirements by accepting virtual payments and offering rates at or below the federal General Services Administration.



#### 3. Hilton Sacramento Arden West

2200 Harvard St, Sacramento, CA 95815-3306 Map it

⊚3.82 miles ★★★★★

\$145

Hide Rooms

#### Most Preferred Hotel for General Services

Hotel details

STP highly encourages using this property when feasible/available. This property meets the Preferred Hotel Program's requirements by accepting virtual payments, offering rates at or below the federal General Services Administration, and providing one or more additional amenities at no extra cost.

#### What to Do if...

#### A "Preferred" or "Most Preferred" hotel refuses to accept the VCN payment?

If your travelers experience issues with the virtual card such as the hotel's acceptance of the payment or not receiving the credit card authorization form for "Preferred" and "Most Preferred" hotels, the Travel Coordinator(s) should reach out to <a href="mailto:DGSHotelProgram@dgs.ca.gov">DGSHotelProgram@dgs.ca.gov</a> immediately.

#### A credit card declines?

Travel Coordinators need to contact U.S. Bank and provide the full credit card number to locate the decline(s).

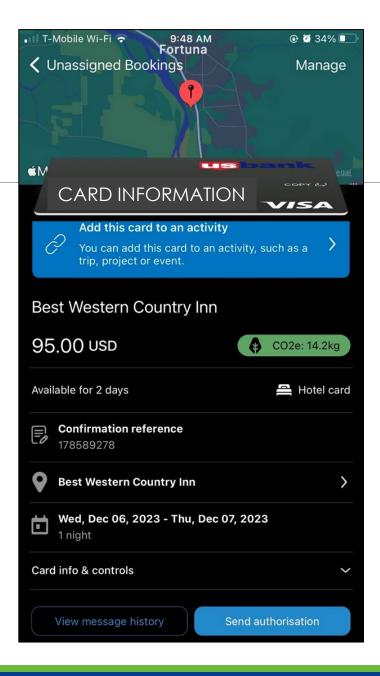
U.S. Bank Client Services Support

- o Phone: 1 (877) 846-9302; Option 3
- Email: <u>CPSPublicSectorClientServices@usbank.com</u> (up to 24-hour response time)
- o After hours: 1 (800) 452-8083

#### **Conferma App**

#### **Access to the Virtual Card Numbers**

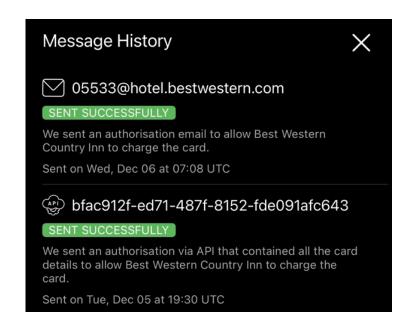
Travelers have access to see the full virtual card numbers for each hotel reservation on the day of check-in.



Conferma App Continued

#### **Access to the Communication History**

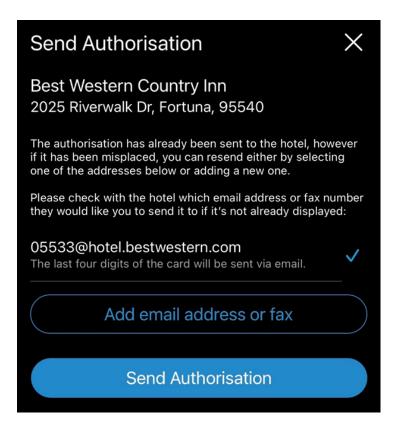
Travelers have access to the communication history between the Conferma system and the hotel.



Conferma App Continued

#### Resend the Credit Card Authorization Form

Travelers have access to resend the credit card authorization form via the Conferma app.



#### **Conferma App Continued**

#### **Conferma App Guide**

 The <u>Conferma app guide</u> can be found on the Statewide Travel Program website, under the Resources, <u>Virtual Payment and Virtual Card Number</u> section.

#### **Conferma App requirements**

- Must have a Concur profile.
- Register for the Conferma app using the same email address associated with the Concur profile.

#### **Conferma App Support**

Travelers who have issues with the Conferma app can email Conferma Support at <a href="mailto:AppUsers@Conferma.com">AppUsers@Conferma.com</a>.

In the email, provide:

- Username
- Detailed description of the issue
- Screenshots of the issue

## CalHR



## Resources and Training Paola Bredberg Clark



#### Resources

#### Spotlight

- How to Change a User's Manager in Concur (Video)
- How to Change a User's Name in Concur (Video)
- Traveler Update
- Travel Updates Subscription

#### **Travel Coordinator Resources**

- <u>Travel Coordinator Resources on STP</u>
   <u>Website (Video)</u>
- Travel Coordinator 101
- Travel Coordinator Resources Page
- Trainings Resource Page

If you have a training need and don't see it on the <u>Trainings Resource Page</u>, please reach out to <u>StatewideTravelProgram@dgs.ca.gov</u> Attention: Training, with suggestions.

#### Resources

#### **Statewide Travel Program**

Website: <u>www.dgs.ca.gov/OFAM/Travel</u>

Email: <u>StatewideTravelProgram@dgs.ca.gov</u>

o Phone: 1 (916) 376-3974

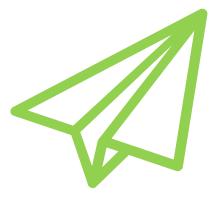


#### CI Azumano

Website: <u>www.caltravel.ciazumano.com</u>

o Email: <u>Caltravel@ciazumano.com</u>

o Phone: 1 (877) 454-8785



## Upcoming Trainings

#### iBank Training

June 19

#### **Concur Training**

August 7

Save the Date - Quarterly Travel Coordinator Meeting

September 5

https://www.dgs.ca.gov/en/OFAM/Travel/Events

## THANK YOU!

Before you go, please complete this feedback form to help us plan future trainings.



This recording, PowerPoint, Traveler Update, and Q&A will be shared by the end of next week.

