BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of Determining the Proper Carrier Classification of, and Complaint for Penalties Against

CRESCENT BAR EVENTOURS, LLC, D/B/A CB EVENTOURS, LLC

DOCKET TE-220939

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

The regulatory staff (Staff) of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) and Crescent Bar Eventours, LLC, d/b/a CB Eventours, LLC (Crescent Bar Eventours or Company), through their authorized representatives, enter into the following settlement agreement (Settlement) to resolve the issues raised in Docket TE-220939.

This Settlement is a "full multiparty settlement" as that term is defined in WAC 480-07-730(3)(a) because it resolves all issues raised in this docket among Staff and Crescent Bar Eventours (the Parties). It is subject to review and disposition by the Commission to determine whether it complies with the applicable legal requirements and whether approval of the Settlement is consistent with the public interest.¹

II. BACKGROUND

On January 5, 2023, the Commission entered Order 01, Order Instituting Special Proceeding; Complaint Seeking to Impose Penalties; and Notice of Virtual Hearing (Complaint), pursuant to RCW 81.04.510, initiating this docket on its own motion. The Complaint alleges that Crescent Bar Eventours violated RCW 81.70.260 on at least two occasions by (1) offering and (2) advertising to provide charter party or excursion carrier

2

3

¹ WAC 480-07-740, -750.

service. Specifically, on December 19, 2022, Staff discovered advertisements on the Company's website, www.cbeventours.com, and the Company's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cbeventour, that offered to provide charter party or excursion carrier service within the state of Washington. On the same day, Staff obtained an invoice from Crescent Bar Eventours for roundtrip transportation service from Crescent Bar, Washington, to Wenatchee, Washington.

III. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

The Parties have reached an agreement on the issues raised in Docket TE-220939 and present this Settlement for the Commission's consideration and approval. The Parties therefore adopt the following Settlement, which they enter into voluntarily, to resolve the matters in dispute between them and to expedite the orderly disposition of this proceeding:

- <u>Admission</u> Crescent Bar Eventours admits that it violated RCW 81.70.260 on two occasions by (1) offering and (2) advertising to provide charter party or excursion carrier service.
- <u>Classification</u> Crescent Bar Eventours admits that it operated as a charter party or excursion service carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- <u>Penalty</u> Crescent Bar Eventours will pay a penalty of \$1,000. This amount will be due and payable upon the Commission's approval of the Settlement.
- <u>Suspended Penalty</u> Crescent Bar Eventours will accept the imposition of a \$9,000 suspended penalty. The Commission shall waive the suspended penalty after a period of two years from the effective date of this agreement, provided that Crescent Bar Eventours does not operate as a charter party or excursion service carrier without authority from the Commission.

 <u>Payment Plan</u> – The Parties agree that Crescent Bar Eventours should be allowed to pay the penalty on a payment plan. The Parties agree that Crescent Bar Eventours will pay the \$1,000 balance immediately due and owing as a result of the Settlement over 10 months with monthly payments of \$100, as follows:

Due Date	Amount
March 28, 2023	\$100
April 28, 2023	\$100
May 30, 2023	\$100
June 28, 2023	\$100
July 28, 2023	\$100
August 28, 2023	\$100
September 28, 2023	\$100
October 30, 2023	\$100
November 28, 2023	\$100
December 28, 2023	\$100

• The Parties agree that if a payment is missed, the entire amount of the penalty, including the suspended portion of \$9,000, will become due and payable the day after the missed penalty was due. The Parties further agree that Crescent Bar Eventours may make payments in advance of the due date to discharge its payment obligation. Any prepayment of the penalty amount will be credited to the last date an installment is due and will not relieve the Company of its obligation to make its next scheduled payment.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

<u>Public interest</u>: The Parties submit that this Settlement promotes the public interest, and that it is appropriate for the Commission's acceptance without conditions under WAC 480-07-750(2)(a).

Effective date: This Settlement is effective on the service date of a final Commission order approving this Settlement, or on the date that an initial order approving

5

this Settlement becomes a final order pursuant to WAC 480-07-825(7), whichever occurs first.

Advocacy: The Parties agree to cooperate in submitting this Settlement promptly to the Commission for acceptance. The Parties agree to support adoption of this Settlement in proceedings before the Commission. No party to this Settlement or its agents, employees, consultants, or attorneys will engage in advocacy contrary to the Commission's adoption of this Settlement.

<u>Construction</u>: This Settlement shall not be construed against any party solely because that party was a drafter of the Settlement.

Other proceedings: This Settlement shall have no precedential or preclusive effect in other proceedings except in a proceeding to enforce its terms. In the event this Settlement does not become effective, this Settlement shall be null and void, with no binding effect on the Parties and with no precedential or preclusive effect on the Parties regarding the continued litigation in Docket TE-220939. In the event that the Commission rejects all or any portion of this Settlement or accepts the Settlement with conditions not proposed in this Settlement, each party reserves the right to withdraw from this Settlement by written notice to the other party and the Commission. Written notice must be served within 10 business days of service of the order rejecting part or all of this Settlement or imposing conditions not proposed in this Settlement. In such event, no party will be bound or prejudiced by the terms of this Settlement, and the Parties agree to cooperate in developing a procedural schedule.

10

<u>Settlement discussions</u>: The Parties have entered into this Settlement to avoid further expense, inconvenience, uncertainty, and delay. As such, conduct, statements, and documents disclosed during negotiations of this Settlement shall not be admissible as

9

8

evidence in this or any other proceeding, except in any proceeding to enforce the terms of this Settlement or any Commission order fully adopting those terms.

- 11 Final agreement: The Parties have negotiated this Settlement as an integrated document to be effective upon execution. This Settlement supersedes all prior oral and written agreements on issues addressed herein.
- 12 <u>Counterparts</u>: The Parties may execute this Settlement in counterparts and as executed shall constitute one agreement. A signed signature page sent by facsimile or email is as effective as an original document.
- 13 <u>Authorized representatives</u>: Each person signing this Settlement warrants that they have authority to bind the party that they represent.

DATED this 28th day of February 2023.

CRESCENT BAR EVENTOURS, LLC, D/B/A CB EVENTOURS, LLC

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

/s/ Jason Hoxit

MARIA MCRAE Owner 8818 Crescent Bar Rd. NW, Unit 180 Quincy, WA 98848 (509) 289-7418 cbeventours@gmail.com JASON HOXIT Compliance Investigator P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, WA 98504-7250 (360) 867-8305 jason.hoxit@utc.wa.gov evidence in this or any other proceeding, except in any proceeding to enforce the terms of this Settlement or any Commission order fully adopting those terms.

<u>Final agreement</u>: The Parties have negotiated this Settlement as an integrated document to be effective upon execution. This Settlement supersedes all prior oral and written agreements on issues addressed herein.

<u>Counterparts</u>: The Parties may execute this Settlement in counterparts and as executed shall constitute one agreement. A signed signature page sent by facsimile or email is as effective as an original document.

13

12

11

<u>Authorized representatives</u>: Each person signing this Settlement warrants that they have authority to bind the party that they represent.

DATED this 28th day of February 2023.

CRESCENT BAR EVENTOURS, LLC, D/B/A CB EVENTOURS. LLC

MARIA MCRAE Owner 8818 Crescent Bar Rd. NW, Unit 180 Quincy, WA 98848 (509) 289-7418 cbeventours@gmail.com

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

/s/ Jason Hoxit

JASON HOXIT Compliance Investigator P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, WA 98504-7250 (360) 867-8305 jason.hoxit@utc.wa.gov