



Ambedkar Times Weekly

Editor-in-Chief: Prem Kumar Chumber

Contact: 001-916-947-8920

Fax: 916-238-1393

E-mail: chumbermedia@yahoo.com, editor@ambedkartimes.com

VOL- 13

ISSUE- 51

March 2, 2022

California (USA)

www.ambedkartimes.com

www.deshdoaba.com

"Ambedkar Times" & "Desh Doaba" fondly remember Mr C. L. Chumber on his 65th Birthday



"Ambedkar Times" & "Desh Doaba" weekly newspapers fondly remember Mr. C. L. Chumber on his 65th Birthday. His contribution towards the legacy of the Ad Dharm movement in the form of his well-documented writings is praise worthy. He published a souvenir on the Ad Dharm and the role of Babu Mangu Ram Muggowalia Ji in the awakening of Dalit consciousness in pre-partition Punjab. The right tribute to Mr. C. L. Chumber Sahib will be to reproduce his writings in a series of columns in "Ambedkar Times" and "Desh Doaba" weekly newspapers. So on his 65th Birthday, we are going to reproduce from this week in "Desh Doaba" weekly newspaper.

Prem K. Chumber

A Pattern of Inconsistency

It may be hard to realize this, but we are already well into 2022. I say this because I find myself reading headlines that make me feel like I am still living in late 2020. As has been the case throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the rules are made up and the data does not matter. After months of a reinstated, statewide mask mandate, Governor Newsom announced the mandate would be lifted on February 15th. Shortly after, I was elated to see the county's public health officer would follow the state's lead and lift our mask mandate as well. The vexing thing about these decisions however, is that the originally stated thresholds for freedom from such mandates have again been irrelevant to the process.

I think it is great that the requirement of masks indoors is being lifted ahead of schedule but it just goes to show how subjective all of the benchmarks are. At the time the county's mask mandate was reinstated, we were told that it would be lifted when we dropped below a case rate of five per 100,000. When the announcement came



that the mask mandate would be lifted, we sat at 63.8 cases per 100,000 which is obviously significantly higher than the previous goal. Again, these guidelines and benchmarks are clearly subjective, and it makes me wonder why any of these false goal lines have continued to be identified – especially when the science we are all supposed to be following continues to change.

Case in point, Sacramento County's most recent mask mandate was put in place to help slow the spread as cases spiked. While the mask mandate was in place however, we saw our highest case rates of the entire pandemic. At the same time, the death rate remained far below what we saw at its peak. With numbers like those, it would seem the mask mandate achieved essentially nothing.

On March 8, 2020, Dr. Fauci made a comment on 60 Minutes, "There's no reason to be walking around with a mask..." – then on April 3, 2020, he and the CDC directed us to wear a mask. As time progressed, we were told to wear 2 masks, that children must mask while playing sports outdoors, and that cloth masks don't work but N95 masks do. We were told that if we get the shot, we can take off the mask and travel, then we were told to put back the mask because it turns out the vaccine does not prevent contracting or transmitting the disease. We've been told we must wear a mask indoors, but if we are sitting at a table in a restaurant, we can take the mask off. Children who are not at-risk are required to wear a mask, while adults who are at-risk can go without a mask.

We clearly have a long way to go to regaining common sense and normalcy. Lifting mask mandates only for the vaccinated did not work last time but that is what we are doing again. As the virus changes and we watch case rates of both the vaccinated and unvaccinated rise and fall together, it is becoming more evident that the need for emergency declarations and knee jerk mandates need to be left behind. Instead, we need to do as we have

with all other viruses that mutate too often to be eradicated – we must learn to live with the virus while minimizing its impact on society.

At this point, the only things we should be hearing about mask mandates is when we are discussing studies of how they have impacted our health, the total well-being of students, and how we can better respond to similar outbreaks in the future.

For a complete list of all my past newsletters, which each contain a commentary like this one, [click here](#).



Sue Frost

Sacramento County Supervisor

Board of Supervisors Declares a Shelter Crisis

Last month, The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted yesterday to declare a shelter crisis in Sacramento County as an important step towards implementing the Board's directions to open and operate sanctioned encampments (called "Safe Stay Communities").

While adoption of the proposed declaration will allow staff to move with expediency on site selection and development for proposed Safe Stay Communities and most sites will not require additional legal review by the Board, staff will bring all sites to the Board for input on site appropriateness before initiating construction.

In addition, staff will work with the Supervisor in whose district the site(s) are located in to develop a community engagement plan for each site.

In the FY 21/22 County Budget, the Board directed staff to pursue non-traditional options for providing sheltering, including use of sleeping cabins, creation of safe parking opportunities, and use of other shelter options. The benefits of such options include:

- They offer non-congregate sheltering, which is not only more private for the occupants but is easier to pre-



vent the spread of disease, including COVID-19.

- They allow for sheltering of diverse populations as they present, including couples and those with pets.
- They are quicker and less expensive to build than traditionally built facilities.
- They are less permanent than traditionally built facilities, allowing a short-term solution in one community and relocation/re-use of the facilities at other sites as needed.

Staff is working on development of construction and operational plans for multiple potential sites for Safe Stay Communities that could consist of temporary sleeping cabins, safe parking spaces or other emergency facilities. Each community will include on-site security, sanitation services and supportive services aimed at transitioning people out of unsheltered homelessness.

Additionally, the County is continuing to enhance
(Contd. on next page)

A Pattern of Inconsistency

(Continue from page 1)

the breadth and depth of outreach and services offered in encampments throughout the County, including the development of Encampment Services Teams that reach out directly to people living unsheltered. These Teams will also serve as outreach points to bring unsheltered into the safe stay communities and provide them with deeper connections to County behavioral health services, connection to benefits like CalFresh, CalWORKs, Medi-Cal, etc., linkages to longer-term shelters, and flexible funding to help support individuals'



transition into permanent housing.

Ultimately, all sites should be considered as a stepping stone to stabilize and support individuals on a pathway to permanent housing.

While stable and affordable housing with appropriate services and support are ultimately what ends homelessness, safe stay communities afford the opportunity to provide immediate safe and hygienic locations for people experiencing homelessness to live and access services. They also provide a consistent location for service providers and outreach workers to engage on a more regular basis with occupants.

Additionally, by targeting those living unsheltered in the immediate vicinity of the communities, it is anticipated that the communities will create broader community benefits including a reduction in trash and debris, the mitigation of environmental and health hazards, and the ability to restore land previously occupied by unsanctioned encampments to its intended use.

Board Frees Up Funding for Housing Pool Expansion

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved last month the utilization of \$499,778 in unspent HHAP-1 funding in Fiscal Year 2021-22 to increase the Flexible Housing Pool (FHP).

The FHP extends rental assistance and housing placement support services for those experiencing homelessness or extends services for existing FHP participants who remain financially vulnerable.

In 2019, Sacramento County established the FHP to help families and individuals transition from the streets or temporary emergency shelter to permanent housing and achieve housing stability through ongoing supportive services. The rollover funds will provide housing subsidies and case management support for up to 100 existing FHP clients through FY 2022

DHA recently released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for case management and property-related services to support the FHP model. From there, a qualified pool of contracted providers will be established to support existing and future funding opportunities without the delay of going back out for bidding.

"This approach allows DHA to develop a pool of qualified providers and enter into contract as funding, programs and strategies are identified by

the Board to address homelessness in the community, said Julie Field, Homeless Services Division Manager, Department of Human Assistance. "A nimble and responsive contracting process with well-vetted providers will allow DHA to move an approved strategy to its implementation phase in weeks versus months."

DHA has moved a large portion of its contracted services to the RFQ model in order to deploy services more quickly. In October, an RFQ was released for shelter services, shelter sites, outreach navigation, the administration of flexible housing funds, food and sanitation services.

The Importance of Spaying/Neutering Your Pets

Did you know a single unaltered cat and her offspring can produce more than 400,000 cats in their lifetime? Over time, this creates a massive burden and impact on local shelters, which can stretch resources and available space. Spaying and neutering pets is one way to lessen this burden.

In 2021, Bradshaw Animal Shelter cared for more than 7,700 animals. Of those, nearly 3,000 were spayed or neutered at the shelter or through available programs, grants and donated funds from organizations like Teaching Everyone Animals Matter (TEAM).

In addition to providing a solution to overpopulation, there are numer-



ous health and other benefits to spay/neutering, including:

- Prevention of pet-related diseases and cancer
- In some cases, behavior, like roaming, aggression and barking, improves
- Increases pets' life expectancy and overall quality of life
- Licensing an altered pet is cheaper than licensing an unaltered pet

Here are some ways to help:

- Spay or neuter your pet
- Donate a spay/neuter operation through Bradshaw Animal Shelter
- Help educate others by sharing this story on social media or via email
- License your pet – Licensing fees are used to operate the shelter and fund the programs/services offered, including spay and neuter surgeries)

For more information about TEAM, visit their website. Information on licensing your pet can be found on the Bradshaw Shelter's licensing page. To find spay and neuter services in the area, visit the Bradshaw Shelter's spay and neuter webpage

URGENT CARE CLINIC

DR. TAKHAR'S FAMILY MEDICINE & URGENT CARE CLINIC

8191 Timberlake Way, Suite # 400, Sacramento, CA 95823

Phone: 916-688-8888 Fax: 916-688-8837

Clinic Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM & Sunday closed

We speak your language: Panjabi, Hindi, Urdu, Farsi, Arabic and Spanish



Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD



Goodie Takhar, PhD

Wonders of Democracy – Run up to March 10, 2022

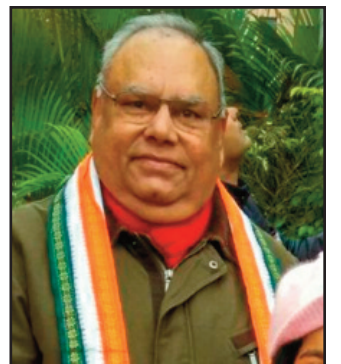
I am not a Jyotshi or a soothe sayer. I write in my blogs 'As I Please' on the basis of my off the cuff understanding of the current situation with regard to the political slugfest which concluded on February 20 in Punjab in the run up to the results on March 10. It is believed that the results are likely to throw some surprises - wonders of democracy - which would determine the things to come in the days to come. So far, only SAD with allies and Congress Party were taking turns and remained at the helm in Punjab. In the last elections in 2017, AAP appeared on the scene with an impressive presence but still had to content with as Leader of the Opposition. Towards the completion of the tenure, the ruling Congress Party had to change horses with the resignation

of many. I would not be surprised, if it happens so. From January 14 to the run up to elections on February 20, I wrote three times in my blog, which were also carried by the esteemed Ambedkar Times, on the relevant issues which directly impinge on the dalit interests with more that 33% population of Punjab and the elevation of Charanjit Singh Channi to the coveted position of CM considered to be a masterstroke of the Congress Party.

All parties and their leaderships left no efforts and tried their every best to woo dalit vote banks in one way or the other – visiting Dalit Deras, announcing freebies, offering coveted positions in the government to dalits like CM and Deputy CM etc., putting dalit candidates from general

one side and destruction of Guru Ravidass Mandir at Tughlakabad in Delhi and long pending proposal on April 14, birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar as International Day of Equality. But unfortunately nothing much has changed as if these issues fell on deaf ears and closed minds. The political parties, in the prevailing caste ridden scenario, perhaps are not yet ready to come to terms with the ground realities and dalit psyche – the state of mind of the marginalized segments of the society. One can understand hesitation and resistance in addressing the substantial issues due to traditional socio-economic and political mindset in the historical milieu of unequal social order in the society at large. But I could not understand the hesitation and blissful

a matter of coincidence that both the Ministers dealing with Tughlakabad Mandir and International Day of Equality are retired diplomats, otherwise competent and efficient perhaps does not have much say in political decisions having bearings on elections. In this scenario it was up to the BJP to come forward



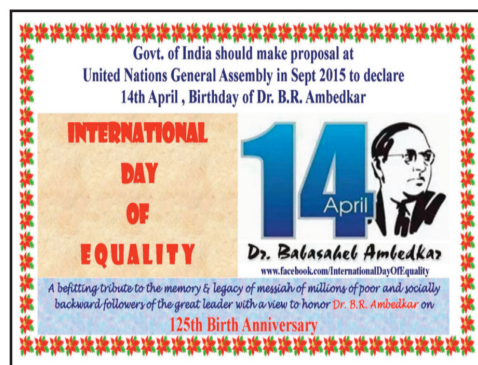
Ramesh Chander
Ambassador - I.F.S. (Retired)
91-99885-10940



of CM Captain Amrinder Singh and a dark horse, Charanjit Singh Channi, a dalit, emerged as a new leader and took over as CM for about 3 months before the elections, 2022.

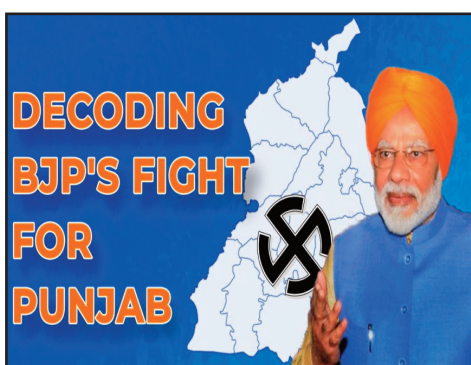
This time, the scenario was different for the first time. In the changed political landscape, many factors were found which would tend to throw some Wonders of Democracy with multi-cornered contests – Congress Party, Akalis and BSP, BJP and PLC of Captain Amrinder Singh and breakaway group of Akalis under Sukhdev Dhindsa, Sanyukt Samaj Morcha of Kisans, AAP among other disgruntles as independents in the fray. It was unfortunate that real issues of unemployment, economic slow-down, communal harmony, education, health, corruption were side tracked. And almost all political outfits were engaged in securing position of the CM, wooing dalit vote banks, Hindu-Sikh divide, and pseudo nationalism, upper caste hegemony etc. in a fractured and divided society. No wonders, the results on March 10 would tend to reflect the divided image for the good or the bad, it is hard to say.

I have been writing in these columns about the Punjab elections particularly with reference to dalit issues and here in this piece too I would limit my observations to the dalit issues which had the potentials of influencing the outcome of elections. But, I think, no political party, due to diverse reasons, could realize this – the dalit swing factor, which would tend to be upset the applearc



seats, roping in highly placed retired dalit bureaucrats as candidates among others. In spite of internal wranglings for the CM face, Congress Party betted on the dalit face, Charanjit Singh Channi. SAD is having an alliance with the said to be party of dalits, BSP. AAP and BJP remained non-committal on representation to dalits in the higher echelon of hierarchy. Obviously, the caste Hindu vote factor was equally heavy on their thinking. In fact, BJP took a U-turn on the question of dalit as their CM face. The caste hegemony of upper caste of both Sikhs and Hindus, traditional social bias against dalits are still weighing heavy in the mainstream of the society in accepting the ground reality of electoral mathematics favouring dalits.

I have been writing on some important issues both substantial and emotional which concern dalit communities in the elections – post Matric scholarship, distribution of Shamlat land in the villages, implementation of 85th Amendment of the constitution on reservations, legal framework of Sub Plan for SCs on



silence on the part of political outfits particularly the ruling BJP in Delhi in responding to the emotional empowerment of dalits. It seems that BJP does not intend to go beyond the proverbial 'lip service' to dalits to get their votes. Both the issues – Guru Ravidass Mandir at Tughlakabad and International Day of Equality fall in the jurisdiction of the government of PM Narendra Modi. BJP is a cadre and mass based party and as such it must feel the pulse of people. But it seems, in the case of dalits, it is still obsessed with the Manuwadi mindset and consciously tends to keep itself aloof keeping in mind their vested interest in the caste Hindu mainstream of the society. I have been consciously extending my hand of support to RSS and its field agencies in carrying forward their professed agenda of "Samrasta" but I think, they also don't have any serious intent in addressing the real issues to reform and strengthen the social order beyond the optics with cosmetic approach. I hope that the big bosses in the largest NGO of the world would understand my pain. It is

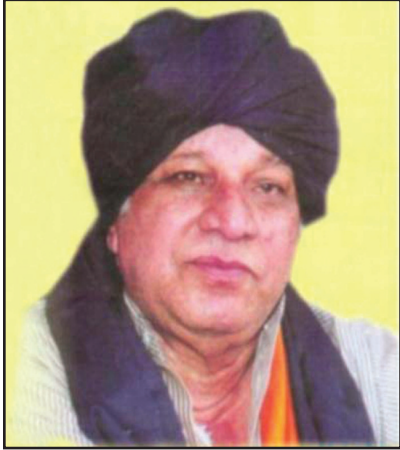
and give political directions. But unfortunately, it did not happen.

All said and done, to my mind, BJP has lost the edge in the form of 'Dalit Swing Factor' in the Punjab elections. These emotional issues of Tughlakabad Mandir and International Day of Equality weight heavy on the psyche of dalit educated youth and intelligentsia. Had the BJP taken positive decision to address these issues it would have made much needed difference in attracting the attention of the followers of Guru Ravidass and Babasaheb Ambedkar. But that was not to be as, I feel, dalit leadership in BJP is totally helpless and does not enjoy any say in the party and the government. It is a matter of dissatisfaction, kindly excuse me for saying my mind candidly, even the Mahamahim Rashtrapati could not, being a dalit, demonstrate any moral and constitutional sensitivity in advising his Government on these matters of interest and concern to the community.

These are my personal views as apolitical and humble but thinking citizen. Dalits are no more interested in remain sitting in the fringes. The time is fast reaching when they would assert and grab their long denied space in the corridors of power in Chandigarh and Delhi. Let us wait for March 10; the day would throw some surprised as 'Wonders of Democracy'. Faiz Ahmed Faiz has said:

ऐ खाक नशीनों उठ बैठो; वह वक्त मुक़ाबलि आ पहुंचा,
जब तख़्त ग़रिब जाएंगे; और ताज उछाले जाएंगे।

AMBEDKAR TIMES GROUP REMEMBERS SAHIB SHRI KANSHI RAM & SHRI DEENA BHANA



Prem Kumar Chumber (Editor-In-Chief)

Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram was born on March 15, 1934, in Khawas Pur village of Ropar District of Punjab (India). He was the eldest of eight siblings. He belonged to the Ramdassia (Ad Dharmi/Mulnivasi) community of the Scheduled Caste group, which is the largest group in Punjab. He was named Kanshi because after his birth the midwife placed him in a tray made of Kansa metal. His father owned some land and his uncles were in the armed forces. In Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram's own words, "I was born and brought up amongst those who sacrificed themselves but never betrayed the country..." Despite his low caste background, he earned a bachelor's degree in science from the Government College at Ropar (Punjab).

His upbringing was modest. During his education years there was nothing special about him to suggest that he would mature into great social revolutionary. It was only after he took up a government job in the western Indian state of Maharashtra that he began to be influenced by the writings and life of Baba Sahib Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar who voiced the concerns of India's low caste community and worked hard throughout his life for their empowerment. Soon after his graduation, Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji joined the research staff of Kirki's Explosive Research and Development Laboratory (ERDL) in Pune 1957. While working in Pune, he quit his job after becoming involved in the famous Deena Bhana case. Shri Deena Bhana, a Rajasthani Scheduled Caste employee and senior colleague of Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji was suspended. His fault was that he protested against the decision of ERDL management for the cancellation of holidays for Baba Sahib Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Lord Buddha Jayantis and their replacement by the Tilak Jayanti and one additional holiday for Diwali. Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji decided to fight against such a caste ridden and dictatorial behavior of the management. The fighter in Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram got the suspension orders of Shri Deena Bhana revoked and Dr. Ambedkar and Lord Buddha Jayantis holidays were restored.

This was the beginning of the long battle for the emancipation of the Dalits in the country that Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram had to lead till his last breath. He resigned from his job and totally dedicated his entire life for the cause of the community. He never married nor visited his home since then. His struggle was not for the home and family. He devised a new strategy to regain the lost glory of the original (Adi) inhabitants of Bharat (India). He gave utmost importance to the culture of work and democratic method of struggle. He also expanded the circle of the Dalits by incorporating other Backward Classes and Minorities into it.

He criticized the post-Ambedkar leadership of Dalits in India. For that he declared "Poona Pact" as the main reason. He said that "Poona Pact" made Dalits helpless. By rejecting separate electorate, Dalits were deprived of their genuine representation in legislatures. Several and various kind of Chamchas were born in the last fifty years. As and when India's so called

high caste Hindu rulers felt the need of Chamchas and when the authority of the upper castes got endangered by real and genuine Dalit leaders, Chamchas were brought to the fore in all other fields".

In his "The Chamcha Age", a well-argued and polemical tirade against the pseudo Dalit leaders, Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji sharpens the contradiction for the legitimate acquisition of political power by the downtrodden in electoral democracy in India. In, the Chamcha Age, "he focused very much on the Poona Pact which was a point of a rather decisive Gandhian victory over Dr. Ambedkar after a long duel between the two at the Round Table Conference". In the mid-1960s, Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji began to organize Dalit government employees to fight against what he saw as the deeply entrenched prejudice of higher caste peoples. It was around this time that he decided that he would not marry and dedicate his life to the cause of Dalit improvement. Finally he decided play a crucial role in the politics of the country.

The result was, Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji launched his first organization on December 6th, 1978: All India Backward (SC, ST, OBC) and Minority Communities' Employees' Federation, popularly known as BAMCEF. Three years later, on December 6th 1981, Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji founded another organization: DS-4 (Dalit Shoshit Samaj Sangharsh Samiti) and on April 14th, 1984, Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji announced the formation of the Bahujan Samaj Party (the Common Man's Party). As a politician, he became very popular among his people, who found a new hope and vision in his style of functioning and sincerity. Suddenly he became a national figure. He was a master strategist and a meticulous Organizer. He used his strengths to carve out a niche for Dalits. This was done by deploying an often combative and aggressive strategy, with virulent attacks on other political parties which he claimed only represented the interests of higher caste Hindus. He was sharply different from other politicians of the mainstream. He used to communicate before he spoke.

In 1996 Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji elected to the Lok Sabha from the Hoshiarpur constituency, from where 50 years ago Great Ghadri Baba Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia Ji founder of the "Ad Dharm Movement" had been returned to the Punjab assembly in 1946. Interestingly, it was at Hoshiarpur, the strong hold of "Ad Dharm" that the BSP celebrated the 75th year of the "Ad Dharm Movement" on February 18th, 2001. On this occasion Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji exhorted the Bahujan Samaj to follow the principles of the "Ad Dharm Movement" of which the BSP has now become the torch-bearer.

He was one of the few great leaders of Independent India who actually expanded the limits of Dalit politics. His political vision was never confined to Scheduled Castes only, as is often thought about him. All of the political organizations he founded were meant for the downtrodden of all sorts – SC, ST, OBC and Minorities. It would not be an exaggeration to say that he was the one who took a lead in making Indian democracy more competitive and practically open to the Dalit-Bahujan Samaj.



Dinabhana Ji
28 Feb 1928-28 Aug 2009



SKY TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

STRIVE FOR MORE

ਟਰੱਕਾਂ ਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਵੀਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਲਈ
ਸਕਾਈ ਟਰਾਂਸਪੋਰਟ ਸਾਲਿਊਸ਼ਨ
ਦੀਆਂ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ



SPECIAL BIT INSPECTION AND DOT AUDIT COMPLIANCE:

WE PROVIDE
ALL TRUCKING
RELATED
PERMITS AND
SERVICES

ICC, DOT, IFTA, IRP Plates,
PERMITS, NYP, KYU, OR,
Canada Permit, CORPORA-
TION AND LLC FILLING
SERVICES, 2290, PTI,
Trailer plates.

NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICES.
ON THE SPOT VIN VERIFICATION SERVICES.
DOT OUT OF SERVICES??
AUTHORIZED IRS E- FILE PROVIDER.
WE HAVE COMPLETE SOLUTIONS
FOR OUT OF SERVICE DOT.

SPECIAL DOT COMPLIANCE
FOR SAFETY, AUDITS AND
RECORD KEEPING.

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

PHONE: 209-855-6938, FAX: 209-762-6540

Email: skytransportsolution@gmail.com

Give us a chance to provide you best services

121 E 11th St. Tracy, CA 95376