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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

<date>

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY SMOG CHECK STATION'S LICENSE SUSPENDED

Bureau of Automotive Repair alleges "clean piping" by El Pareja Smog Check Test Only

LOS ANGELES – The owner and a technician at El Pareja Smog Check Test Only at 4625 Figueroa St. in Los Angeles have had their licenses suspended after investigators with the Bureau of Automotive Repair discovered they were cheating the state's Smog Check inspection program.

Investigators with the bureau found station owner Ramon Elias and technician Roberto A. Cardenas were "clean piping" vehicles to get them through the Smog Check test.

"Clean piping" is when a vehicle, that would not pass a Smog Check inspection on its own or is not present for testing is fraudulently certified as passing. To accomplish this, a technician or other individual uses a clean exhaust sample from another vehicle that will pass a Smog Check while entering data for the vehicle for which the Smog Certificate is required.

"'Clean piping' is against the law," said Bureau Chief Sherry Mehl. "On top of that, it has a negative impact on our air quality. We are determined to take swift action against Smog Check station owners and technicians involved in this illegal activity and to shut them down."

Elias' Automotive Repair Dealer registration and his Smog Check Test Only station license were suspended by an Administrative Law Judge at the request of the bureau. The judge also suspended Cardenas' Advanced Emission Specialist Technician License. The bureau will now proceed with its efforts to permanently revoke the licenses.

An administrative hearing will be held at a later date to address the violations found during the bureau's investigation. The bureau has also submitted the results of its investigation to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office for possible criminal prosecution.

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The Department of Consumer Affairs promotes and protects the interests of California Consumers. Consumers who wish to file a complaint against an auto repair facility can contact the Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair at (800) 952-5210. Consumers can also file a complaint online at www.autorepair.ca.gov.