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8	BEFOR DEPARTMENT OF CO			
9	FOR THE BUREAU OF A	AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR		
10	STATE OF CA	ALIFORMA		
11				
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 79/21-6703		
13 14	NICHOLAS STEVEN JAURE DBA ROUTE 66 SMOG CHECK			
15	17855 Foothill Blvd, Unit #2 Fontana, CA 92335	ACCUSATION		
16	Automotive Repair Dealer Registration No.			
17	ARD 294139 Smog Check, Test Only Station License No. TC 294139,			
18	and			
19	ARMANDO EMMANUEL MORALES			
20	34992 Acacia Ave Yucaipa, CA 92399			
21	Smog Check Inspector License No. EO			
22	637315			
23	Respondents.			
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<ul><li>27</li><li>28</li></ul>				
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	(NICHOLAS STEVEN JAURE DBA ROUTE 66 SMOO	G CHECK and ARMANDO EMMANUEL MORALES)		

ACCUSATION

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<u>PARTIES</u>

1. Patrick Dorais (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as the Chief of the Bureau of Automotive Repair, Department of Consumer Affairs.

### Nicholas Steven Jaure dba Route 66 Smog Check

- 2. On or about May 7, 2019, the Bureau of Automotive Repair issued Automotive Repair Dealer Registration Number ARD 294139 to Nicholas Steven Jaure dba Route 66 Smog Check (Respondent Jaure). The Automotive Repair Dealer Registration expired on May 31, 2022 and has not been renewed.
- 3. On or about May 24, 2019, the Bureau of Automotive Repair issued Smog Check, Test Only Station License Number TC 294139 to Nicholas Steven Jaure dba Route 66 Smog Check (Respondent Jaure). The Smog Check, Test Only Station License expired on May 31, 2022, and has not been renewed.

### **Armando Emmanuel Morales**

4. On or about September 17, 2014, the Bureau of Automotive Repair issued Smog Check Inspector License Number EO 637315 to Armando Emmanuel Morales (Respondent Morales). The Smog Check Inspector License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on January 31, 2023, unless renewed.

### **JURISDICTION**

- This Accusation is brought before the Director of the Department of Consumer
   Affairs (Director) for the Bureau of Automotive Repair, under the authority of the following laws.
  - 6. Business and Professions Code section 118, subsection (b), states:

The suspension, expiration, or forfeiture by operation of law of a license issued by a board in the department, or its suspension, forfeiture, or cancellation by order of the board or by order of a court of law, or its surrender without the written consent of the board, shall not, during any period in which it may be renewed, restored, reissued, or reinstated, deprive the board of its authority to institute or continue a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee upon any ground provided by law or to enter an order suspending or revoking the license or otherwise taking

21. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 3373, states:

No automotive repair dealer or individual in charge shall, in filling out an estimate, invoice, or work order, or record required to be maintained by section 3340.15(e) of this chapter, withhold therefrom or insert therein any statement or information which will cause any such document to be false or misleading, or where the tendency or effect thereby would be to mislead or deceive customers, prospective customers, or the public.

### **COST RECOVERY**

22. Business and Professions Code section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that the Bureau may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND: CLEAN PIPING

- 23. California's Smog Check Program requires the owners of most motor vehicles in the Enhanced and Basic areas of the state, to pass a Smog Check inspection and receive a Certificate of Compliance every two years when renewing their registration and when the vehicle's title is transferred. These inspections are performed by Smog Check inspectors at Smog Check Stations, both of which are licensed by the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR). The Smog Check Program is designed and intended to reduce air pollution by identifying and requiring the repair of polluting motor vehicles.
- 24. BAR has become aware of methods some Smog Check stations and Smog Check inspectors use to fraudulently issue smog certificates to vehicles that will not pass a Smog Check test on their own, or in some instances, are not even present during the time the test is performed. These methods are known as "clean piping", "clean plugging", and "clean gassing", and "clean tanking." "Clean piping" is the act of using the emission sample of a known clean vehicle to substitute for the emissions of a vehicle that will not pass a smog inspection or is not present at the time of the test.

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### **SURVEILLANCE: MAY 6, 2021**

- 25. On May 6, 2021, a Bureau Representative (Representative) conducted surveillance at Route 66 Smog Check. The Representative began video recording station testing activity starting at approximately 1545 hours. From his position, the Representative was able to visually monitor vehicles entering and exiting the testing bay and station testing activity from the Bureau's database.
- 26. At the time recording began, a 2000 Honda Accord, CA license 7UKA304, was stationed in the testing bay. At 1603 hours, a worker (Worker #1) removed the analyzer probe from the wall outside of the testing bay and then bent down before walking back inside the bay. At 1624 hours, a worker (Worker #2) removed the analyzer exhaust probe from the 2000 Honda Accord and hung it on the wall outside of the bay. At 1642 hours, the 2000 Honda Accord then moved slightly backward and then forward in the test bay.
- 27. At 1644 hours, Worker #2 inserted the analyzer probe into the 2000 Honda Accord. At 1646 hours, the worker removed the probe from the 2000 Honda Accord. At 1648 hours, Worker #1 drove the 2000 Honda Accord out of the test bay and parked in an area just out of camera view of the testing bay. At 1705 hours, a Nissan Sentra arrived at the station driven by revoked Smog Check Inspector, Roberto Silva Perez (Perez). <sup>1</sup>
- 28. At 1727 hours the Representative concluded the surveillance of Route 66 Smog Check and drove into the commercial complex where Route 66 Smog Check was located, past the testing bay, and verified that the only vehicle in the testing bay at that time was the Nissan Sentra. The Representative later downloaded test data information from the VID for the surveillance period. The information for the inspections is presented in the form of a summary, which provides the following information:
  - Analyzer number
  - Number of the Licensed Smog Check Inspector who purportedly conducted the test
  - Date of the test

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> On or about August 12, 2019, Smog Check Inspector License No. EO634504 issued to Roberto Silva Perez was revoked *In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against: Roberto Silva Perez*, Case. No. 79/16-143.

### Fraudulent Inspection #3

32. The BAR97 Test Detail shows on May 6, 2021, between 1619 and 1630 hours, a 1993 Honda Civic, CA license 8DWZ428 was tested and issued Certificate of Compliance # SA859762C by Respondent Morales. During the time the 1993 Honda Civic was certified, a 2000 Honda Accord was in the testing bay. A 1993 Honda Civic did not enter or exit the station during the testing period.

### Fraudulent Inspection #4

33. The BAR97 Test Detail shows on May 6, 2021, between 1640 and 1648 hours, a 1999 Honda Passport, CA license 7XJX901 was tested and issued Certificate of Compliance # SA859763C by Respondent Morales. During the time the 1999 Honda Passport was certified, a 2000 Honda Accord was in the testing bay. A 1999 Honda Passport did not enter or exit the station during the testing period.

Table 1: Fraudulent Smog Check Inspections performed at Route 66 Smog Check on May 6, 2021 using the clean piping method

Start	End	Vehicle Certified	Vehicle in Testing Bay	Certificate #
1538	1552	1999 GMC K1500 (5UAF981)	2000 Honda Accord	None
1559	1611	1981 Cadillac Deville (8TQB468)	2000 Honda Accord	SA859761C
1619	1630	1993 Honda Civic (8DWZ428)	2000 Honda Accord	SA859762C
1640	1648	1999 Honda Passport (7XJX901)	2000 Honda Accord	SA859762C

### **SURVEILLANCE: JUNE 23, 2021**

- 34. On June 23, 2021, a Representative conducted surveillance at Route 66 Smog Check. The Representative began video recording station testing activity starting at approximately 1615 hours. From his position, the Representative was able to visually monitor the vehicles entering and exiting the testing bay and station testing activity from the Bureau's database.
- 35. At 1647 hours, a 1998 Honda Accord, CA license 8MZG269, entered the testing bay. At 1657 hours, a worker (Worker #3) with short, dark hair, a goatee, and wearing a plaid shirt entered the driver's side of the 1998 Accord. At 1700 hours, Worker #2 inserted the analyzer

probe into the 1998 Accord. At 1703 hours, Worker #3 removed the analyzer probe from the 1998 Accord. At 1711 hours, Worker #2 inserted the analyzer probe into the 1998 Accord. At 1727 hours, Worker #3 drove the 1998 Accord out of the testing bay.

- At 1738 hours, the Representative concluded surveillance of Route 66 Smog Check and later downloaded test data information from the VID for the surveillance period.
- 37. A summary of the investigation shows that during the period of surveillance on June 23, 2021, two (2) inspections were performed on two (2) different vehicles and two (2) fraudulent electronic Smog Check Certificates of Compliance were issued as follows:

### Fraudulent Inspection #5

38. The BAR97 Test Detail shows on June 23, 2021, between 1658 and 1704 hours, a 1997 Honda Civic, CA license 8LNR014 was tested and issued Certificate of Compliance # SC828225C by Respondent Morales. During the time the 1997 Honda Civic was certified, a 1998 Honda Accord was in the testing bay. A 1997 Honda Civic did not enter or exit the station.

### Fraudulent Inspection #6

39. The BAR97 Test Detail shows on June 23, 2021, between 1708 and 1717 hours, a 1993 Chevrolet C1500 pickup, CA license 87581R1, was tested and issued Certificate of Compliance # SC828226C, under licensed Smog Check Inspector #EO637315, Morales. During the time the 1993 Chevrolet C1500 pickup was certified, a 1998 Honda Accord was in the testing bay. A 1993 Chevrolet C1500 pickup did not enter or exit the station.

Table 2: Fraudulent Smog Check Inspections performed at Route 66 Smog Check on June 23, 2021 using the clean piping method

Start	End	Vehicle Certified	Vehicle in Testing Bay	Certificate #
1658	1704	1997 Honda Civic (8LNR014)	1998 Honda Accord	SC828225C
1708	1717	1993 Chevrolet C1500 (87581R1)	1998 Honda Accord	SC828226C

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### **SURVEILLANCE: SEPTEMBER 7, 2021**

- 40. On September 7, 2021, two Representatives conducted surveillance at Route 66 Smog Check. At approximately 1515 hours, the Representatives began visually monitoring testing activity on the Bureau's database while monitoring vehicles driving in and out of the only driveway leading to the complex where the station.
- 41. Using the Bureau's database, a Representative verified that a test on a 1988 Mazda B-series pickup was initiated at 1629 hours at the station.
- 42. A Representative then drove to the testing bay to identify the workers present and to observe the vehicle in the bay more closely. As the Representative exited his vehicle, he was approached by Perez who asked if the Representative needed a smog test. The Representative stated that he did, whereupon, Perez informed the Representative that it would be "about a 30-minute wait."
- 43. At 1646 hours, the Representative learned that the test on the 1988 Mazda B-series pickup was completed and was certified. The Representative then entered the testing bay and approached Worker #2, who later identified himself as "Eddie". The Representative identified himself as being with the Bureau and asked for Respondent Morales' location. Eddie told the Representative that Respondent Morales was "out having lunch."
- 44. As the Representative was talking to Eddie, Perez approached them. When Perez discovered that the Representative was with the Bureau, he got into a Honda Prelude and fled the station. Eddie refused to answer any further questions. An unidentified worker then drove the 1998 Honda Accord out of the testing bay and left the facility. Respondent Morales was contacted on his cell phone and agreed to meet with Representatives at a later date.
- 45. Representatives concluded their investigation of the station at approximately 1730 hours and downloaded test data information from the VID for the surveillance period.
- 46. The summary shows that during the monitored testing activity on September 7, 2021, an inspection was performed on a vehicle and an electronic Smog Check Certificate of Compliance was issued. The test data summary shows the following fraudulent activity:

### Fraudulent Inspection #7

47. The BAR97 Test Detail shows on September 7, 2021, between 1629 and 1646 hours, a 1988 Mazda B-series pickup, CA license 8N91196 was tested and issued Certificate of Compliance #SG508072C by Respondent Morales. However, during the time the 1988 Mazda B-series pickup was certified, a 1998 Honda Accord was in the testing bay. A 1988 Mazda B-series pickup did not enter or exit the station.

Table 3: Fraudulent Smog Check Inspection performed at

Route 66 Smog Check on September 7, 2021 using the clean piping method

Start	End	Vehicle Certified	Vehicle in Testing Bay	Certificate #
1629	1646	1988 Mazda B-series (8N91196)	1998 Honda Accord	SG508072C

### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Untrue or Misleading Statements)

### (As to Automotive Repair Dealer Registration No. ARD 294139)

48. Respondent Jaure's Automotive Repair Dealer Registration is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 9884.7, subdivision (a)(1), in that he made or authorized statements which he knew or in the exercise of reasonable care should have known to be untrue or misleading when he issued electronic smog certificates of compliance to the vehicles, certifying those vehicles as being in compliance with applicable laws and regulations when, in fact, those vehicles had been clean piped and had not been properly inspected. Respondent Jaure did not inspect any of the vehicles as required by Health and Safety Code section 44012. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 23 – 47 by reference as if fully set forth herein.

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### SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

### (Fraud)

### (As to Automotive Repair Dealer Registration No. ARD 294139)

49. Respondent Jaure's Automotive Repair Dealer Registration is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 9884.7, subdivision (a)(4), in that he committed acts that constitute fraud by issuing electronic smog certificates of compliance for vehicles without performing bona fide inspections of the emission control devices and systems on the vehicles, thereby depriving the People of the State of California of the protection afforded by the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 23 - 47 by reference as if fully set forth herein.

### THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

### (Violation of Motor Vehicle Inspection Program)

### (As to Automotive Repair Dealer Registration No. ARD 294139)

50. Respondent Jaure's Automotive Repair Dealer Registration is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 9884.7, subdivision (a)(6), in that he failed in a material respect to comply with the provisions of this chapter or regulations adopted pursuant to it when he repeatedly issued electronic certificates of compliance for the vehicles without performing bona fide inspections of the emission control devices and systems on those vehicles, thereby depriving the People of the State of California of the protection afforded by the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 23 – 47 by reference as if fully set forth herein.

### FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(False and Misleading Records)

### (As to Automotive Repair Dealer Registration No. ARD 294139)

51. Respondent Jaure's station license is subject to disciplinary action under Health and Safety Code section 44072.2, subdivision (c), in conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16 section 3373 in that Respondent Jaure provided false statements and

information in required records, which were misleading to the public. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 23 - 47 by reference as if fully set forth herein.

#### **FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

(Violation of the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program)

(As to Smog Check Test Only Station License No. TC 294139)

- 52. Respondent Jaure's station license is subject to disciplinary action under Health and Safety Code section 44072.2, subdivision (a), in that Respondent Jaure failed to comply with the following sections of the Health and Safety Code:
- a. <u>Section 44012, subdivision (a)</u>: Respondent Jaure failed to determine that all emission control devices and systems required by law were installed and functioning correctly in accordance with test procedures.
- b. <u>Section 44012, subdivision (f)</u>: Respondent Jaure failed to perform a visual or functional check of emission control tests on vehicles in accordance with procedures prescribed by the department.
- c. <u>Section 44015, subdivision (b):</u> Respondent Jaure issued electronic certificates of compliance without properly testing and inspecting the vehicles to determine if they were in compliance with Health and Safety Code section 44012.

Complainant incorporates paragraphs 23 - 47 by reference as if fully set forth herein.

### SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Comply with Regulations Pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program)

(As to Smog Check Test Only Station License No. TC 294139)

- 53. Respondent Jaure's station license is subject to disciplinary action under Health and Safety Code section 44072.2, subdivision (c), in that Respondent Jaure violated the following provisions of California Code of Regulations, title 16:
- a. <u>Section 3340.35, subdivision (c):</u> Respondent Jaure issued electronic smog certificates of compliance for vehicles that had not been inspected in accordance with section 3340.42, which requires among other things, a visual and functional inspection of the emissions controls systems.

#### TENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Violations of the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program)

(As to Smog Check Inspector License No. EO 637315)

57. Respondent Morales's technician license is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 44072.2, subdivision (a) in conjunction with section 44032 in that Respondent Morales failed to perform tests of the emission control devices and systems in accordance with section 44012 of that Code. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 23 – 47 by reference as if fully set forth herein.

### **ELEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

(Failure to Comply with Regulations of the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program)

(As to Smog Check Inspector License No. EO 637315)

- 58. Respondent Morales's technician license is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 44072.2, subdivision (c), in that he failed to comply with the following provisions of California Code of Regulations, title 16:
- a. <u>Section 3340.30, subdivision (a):</u> Respondent Morales failed to inspect and test the vehicles in accordance with Health and Safety Code section 44012.
- b. <u>Section 3340.41, subdivision (c):</u> Respondent Morales entered false information into the EIS for the electronic certificates of compliance by entering vehicle emission control information for vehicles other than the vehicles being certified.
- c. <u>Section 3373:</u> Respondent Morales provided false statements and information in required records, which were misleading to the public.

Complainant incorporates paragraphs 23 - 47 by reference as if fully set forth herein.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

59. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 9884.7, subdivision (c), the Director may suspend, revoke, or place on probation the registration for all places of business operated in this state by respondent Nicholas Steven Jaure, upon a finding that respondent Nicholas Steven Jaure has, or is, engaged in a course of repeated and willful violations of the laws and regulations pertaining to an automotive repair dealer.

- 60. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 44072.8, if Smog Check, Test Only Station License Number TC 294139 issued to Respondent Jaure, doing business as Route 66 Smog Check, is revoked or suspended following a hearing under this article, any additional license issued under Chapter 5 of Part 5 of Division 26 of the Health and Safety Code in the name of said licensee may be likewise revoked or suspended by the Director.
- 61. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 44072.8, if Smog Check Inspector License Number EO 637315, issued to Respondent Morales, is revoked or suspended following a hearing under this article, any additional license issued under Chapter 5 of Part 5 of Division 26 of the Health and Safety Code in the name of said licensee may be likewise revoked or suspended by the Director.

### **PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs issue a decision:

- Revoking or suspending Automotive Repair Dealer Registration Number ARD
   294139, issued to Nicholas Steven Jaure dba Route 66 Smog Check;
- 2. Revoking or suspending Smog Check, Test Only Station License Number TC 294139, issued to Nicholas Steven Jaure dba Route 66 Smog Check;
- 3. Revoking or suspending any additional license issued under Chapter 5 of Part 5 of Division 26 of the Health & Saf. Code in the name of Nicholas Steven Jaure;
- 4. Revoking or suspending Smog Check Inspector License Number EO 637315, issued to Armando Emmanuel Morales;
- 5. Revoking or suspending any additional license issued under Chapter 5 of Part 5 of Division 26 of the Health & Saf. Code in the name of Armando Emmanuel Morales;
- 6. Ordering Nicholas Steven Jaure and Armando Emmanuel Morales to pay the Bureau of Automotive Repair the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and,

1	7. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
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4	DATED: As of digital signature date PATRICK DORAIS
5	Chief
6	Bureau of Automotive Repair Department of Consumer Affairs State of California
7	Complainant
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	(NICHOLAS STEVEN JAURE DBA ROUTE 66 SMOG CHECK and ARMANDO EMMANUEL MORALES) ACCUSATION