1	ROB BONTA		
2	Attorney General of California KAREN R. DENVIR		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General MEGAN M. BRIGHT		
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 347794 1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 210-7893 Facsimile: (916) 327-8643 E-mail: Megan.Bright@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant  BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
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10	FOR THE BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR		
11	STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 79/24-12392	
13	STANISLAUS SMOG 2 INC.		
14	DBA STANISLAUS SMOG #2 JOSE G. VARGAS, PRESIDENT	ACCUSATION	
15	3531 Carver Road Modesto, CA 95356		
16	Automotive Repair Dealer Registration No. ARD 274734		
17	Smog Check, Test-Only, Station License No. TC 274734,		
18	and		
19	JOSE VARGAS		
20	775 Adams Avenue Orange Cove, CA 93646		
21	Smog Check Inspector No. License EO		
22	642792		
23	Respondents.		
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25			
26	PART	<u> FIES</u>	
27	1. Patrick Dorais (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as		
28	the Chief of the Bureau of Automotive Repair (Bu	ureau), Department of Consumer Affairs.	
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	(STANISLAUS SMOG 2 INC. DBA STANISLAUS SMOG #2; JOSE G. VARGAS) ACCUSATION		

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#### **Automotive Repair Dealer Registration**

2. On or about November 8, 2013, the Bureau issued Automotive Repair Dealer Registration Number ARD 274734 (registration) to Stanislaus Smog 2 Inc. doing business as Stanislaus Smog #2 with Jose G. Vargas as owner (Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2). The registration was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein. The registration was set to expire on November 30, 2024, but was cancelled on August 12, 2024.

#### Smog Check, Test-Only, Station License

3. On or about November 20, 2013, the Bureau issued Smog Check, Test-Only, Station License Number TC 274734 (station license) to Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2. The station license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein. The station license was set to expire on November 30, 2024, but was cancelled on August 12, 2024.

### **Smog Check Inspector License**

4. On or about December 2, 2020, Bureau issued Smog Check Inspector License Number EO 642792 to Jose Vargas (Respondent Vargas). The smog check inspector license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on July 31, 2026, unless renewed.

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 5. This Accusation is brought before the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs (Director) for the Bureau under the authority of the following laws.
  - 6. Code section 22 states:

"Board" as used in any provisions of this code, refers to the board in which the administration of the provision is vested, and unless otherwise expressly provided, shall include "bureau," "commission," "committee," "department," "division," "examining committee," "program," and "agency."

7. Code section 477 provides, in pertinent part, that Board includes bureau, commission, committee, department, division, examining committee, program, and agency. License includes certificate, registration or other means to engage in a business or profession regulated by the Code.

the BAR-OIS computer and the vehicle's diagnostic link connector. The bar code scanner is used to input technician information, the vehicle identification number, and the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) renewal information. The vehicle identification number (VIN) that is physically present on all vehicles is required to be programmed into the vehicle's On-Board Diagnostics — Generation II (OBD II) on 2005 and newer vehicles, and on many occasions was programmed into the OBD II computer in earlier model-years. The electronically programmed VIN is referred to as the "eVIN", is captured by the Bureau during a smog check inspection, and should match the physical VIN on the vehicle. The printer is used to provide a vehicle inspection report, which shows the inspection results and the Smog Check Certificate of Compliance Number for passing vehicles. Data retrieved and recorded during an OIS smog check includes the eVIN, the communication protocol<sup>1</sup>, and the number of Parameter Identifications (PID).<sup>2</sup>

### **REVIEW OF OIS TESTS DATA**

27. Bureau representative J.P. reviewed OIS test data pertaining to smog inspections conducted at Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2's facility. J.P. found that smog check inspections were performed at Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2's facility on the five vehicles identified below using a method known as "clean plugging", 3 resulting in the issuance of fraudulent certificates of compliance for the vehicles.

#### Vehicle 1

28. The OIS test data showed that on April 19, 2024, Respondent Vargas performed a smog check inspection on a 2010 Honda Accord LX (Vehicle 1), resulting in the issuance of electronic Smog Certificate of Compliance Number TW351022C. The OIS test details for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The OBD II communication protocol describes the specified communication "language" used by the OBD II computer to communication to scan tools and other devices such as the BAR-OIS. The communication protocol is programmed into the vehicle's on-board computer during manufacture and does not change.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> PIDs are data points reported by the vehicle's on-board computer to a scan tool or BAR-OIS, such as engine speed, vehicle speed, engine temperature, etc. The PID count is the number of data points reported by the vehicle's on-board computer and is programmed during manufacture.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Clean-plugging is the use of a vehicle's properly functioning OBD II system, or another source, to generate passing diagnostic readings for the purpose of issuing a fraudulent smog certificate of compliance to another vehicle that is not in compliance with the Smog Check Program and/or is not present for testing.

Vehicle 1 showed that the eVIN recorded during the inspection did not match the physical VIN on the vehicle and the PID count was recorded as 40/14. J.P. concluded that the DAD was not connected to Vehicle 1 during the inspection.

- 29. The OIS test data also showed that on August 23, 2021, and July 27, 2023, previous tests were performed by other smog facilities on Vehicle 1; and, on April 9, 2024, a previous test was performed by Respondent Vargas on Vehicle 1. J.P. found that the eVINs reported during the three separate inspections were recorded correctly and that the PID counts recorded during the inspections were 37/20.
- 30. Further, OIS test data showed that on April 19, 2024, Respondent Vargas performed a smog test on a 2013 Volkswagen EOS Komfort and that the eVIN and PID count transmitted to VID were the same eVIN and PID count that were recorded during the April 19, 2024, smog inspection on Vehicle 1. J.P. concluded that Respondent Vargas used the 2013 Volkswagen EOS Komfort's properly functioning OBD II system during the inspection on Vehicle 1, resulting in the issuance of a fraudulent certificate of compliance for Vehicle 1.

#### Vehicle 2

- 31. The OIS test data showed that on May 23, 2024, Respondent Vargas performed a smog check inspection on a 2013 Ford Explorer XLT (Vehicle 2), resulting in the issuance of electronic Smog Certificate of Compliance Number TY369514C. The OIS test details for Vehicle 2 showed that the eVIN recorded during the inspection did not match the physical VIN on the vehicle and the PID count was recorded as 53/15. J.P. concluded that the DAD was not connected to Vehicle 2 during the inspection.
- 32. The OIS test data also showed that on June 11, 2018, March 26, 2021, and May 20, 2024, previous tests were performed by other smog facilities on Vehicle 2. J.P. found that the eVINs reported during the three separate inspections were recorded correctly and that the PID counts recorded during the inspections were 42.
- 33. Further, OIS test data showed that on May 23, 2024, Respondent Vargas performed a smog test on a 2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross ES and that the eVIN and PID count transmitted to VID was the same eVIN and PID count that was recorded during the May 23, 2024, smog

inspection on Vehicle 2. J.P. concluded that Respondent Vargas used the 2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross ES's properly functioning OBD II system during the inspection on Vehicle 2, resulting in the issuance of a fraudulent certificate of compliance for Vehicle 2.

#### Vehicle 3

- 34. The OIS test data showed that on June 18, 2024, Respondent Vargas performed a smog check inspection on a 2016 Ford Mustang GT (Vehicle 3), resulting in the issuance of electronic Smog Certificate of Compliance Number UA017246C. The OIS test details for Vehicle 3 showed that the eVIN recorded during the inspection did not match the physical VIN on the vehicle and the PID count was recorded as 40/7/8. J.P. concluded that the DAD was not connected to Vehicle 3 during the inspection.
- 35. The OIS test data also showed that on March 10, 2018, April 4, 2024, and April 8, 2024, previous tests were performed by other smog facilities on Vehicle 3. J.P. found that the eVINs reported during the three separate inspections were recorded correctly and that the PID counts recorded during the inspection were 43.
- 36. Further, OIS test data showed that on June 18, 2024, Respondent Vargas performed a smog test on 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LT and that the eVIN and PID count transmitted to VID were the same eVIN and PID count that were recorded during the June 18, 2024, smog inspection on Vehicle 3. J.P. concluded that Respondent Vargas used the 2011 Chevrolet Exquinox LT's properly functioning OBD II system during the inspection on Vehicle 3, resulting in the issuance of a fraudulent certificate of compliance for Vehicle 3.

#### Vehicle 4

37. The OIS test data showed that on June 25, 2024, Respondent Vargas performed a smog check inspection on a 2012 Audi A 4 Premium (Vehicle 4), resulting in the issuance of electronic Smog Certificate of Compliance Number IZ797252C. The OIS test details for Vehicle 4 showed that the eVIN recorded during the inspection did not match the physical VIN on the vehicle and the PID count was recorded as 39. J.P. concluded that the DAD was not connected to Vehicle 4 during the inspection.

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- 38. The OIS test data also showed that on August 12, 2020, February 4, 2021, and June 10, 2024, previous tests were performed by other smog facilities on Vehicle 4. J.P. found that the eVIN reported during the three separate inspections were recorded correctly and that the PID counts recorded during the inspection were 37/10.
- 39. Further, OIS test data showed that on April 24, 2024, Respondent Vargas performed a smog test on 2014 Honda Accord LX-S and that the eVIN and PID count transmitted to VID were the same eVIN and PID count that were recorded during the June 25, 2024, smog inspection on Vehicle 4. J.P. concluded that Respondent Vargas used the 2014 Honda Accord LX-S's properly functioning OBD II system during the inspection on Vehicle 4, resulting in the issuance of a fraudulent certificate of compliance for Vehicle 4.

#### Vehicle 5

- 40. The OIS test data showed that on July 2, 2024, Respondent Vargas performed a smog check inspection on a 2005 Ford Mustang GT (Vehicle 5), resulting in the issuance of electronic Smog Certificate of Compliance Number UA068587C. The OIS test details for Vehicle 5 showed that the eVIN recorded during the inspection did not match the physical VIN on the vehicle and the PID count was recorded as 22. J.P. concluded that the DAD was not connected to Vehicle 5 during the inspection.
- 41. The OIS test data also showed that on January 22, 2018, July 31, 2019, and February 6, 2021, previous tests were performed by other smog facilities on Vehicle 5. J.P. found that the eVIN reported during the three separate inspections were recorded correctly and that the PID counts recorded during the inspection were 44.
- 42. Further, OIS test data showed that on July 7, 2024, Respondent Vargas performed a smog test on a 2001 Chevrolet Suburban K1500 and that the eVIN and PID count transmitted to VID were the same eVIN and PID count that were recorded during the July 2, 2024, smog inspection on Vehicle 5. J.P. concluded that Respondent Vargas used the 2001 Chevrolet Suburban K1500's properly functioning OBD II system during the inspection on Vehicle 5, resulting in the issuance of a fraudulent certificate of compliance for Vehicle 5.

#### **PRIOR CITATION**

43. On or about September 16, 2022, the Bureau issued Citation Number M2022-1048 to Respondent Vargas for violating Heath & Safety Code section 44032. The basis for the citation was that on or about August 18, 2022, Respondent Vargas issued a certificate of compliance for a Bureau undercover vehicle with missing or modified AIS components. The citation became final and ordered Respondent Vargas to attend an eight-hour Bureau certified smog check citation training course by November 15, 2022. On or about May 3, 2023, the Bureau sent Respondent Vargas a failure to comply with training letter. To date, Respondent Vargas has not complied with the citation.

#### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

### (Untrue or Misleading Statements)

44. Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2's registration is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 9884.7, subdivision (a)(1), in that Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2 made or authorized statements which Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2 knew, or in the exercise of reasonable care should have known to be untrue or misleading. Specifically, Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2 certified that Vehicles 1 through 5, identified above in paragraphs 27 through 42, passed inspection and were in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. In fact, Respondent Stanislaus #2 conducted, or cause to be conducted, smog check inspections on vehicles using clean-plugging methods, in that Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2 substituted different vehicles during the inspections in order to issue smog certificates of compliance for the vehicles, and did not test or inspect the vehicles as required by Health & Saf. Code section 44012.

### SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

### (Fraud)

45. Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2's registration is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 9884.7, subdivision (a)(4), in that Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2 committed acts which constitute fraud by issuing smog certificates of compliance for Vehicles 1 through 5 identified in paragraphs 27 through 42, without ensuring that bona fide inspections were performed of the emission control devices and systems on the vehicles, thereby depriving the

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### FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

### (Dishonesty, Fraud or Deceit)

48. Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2's station license is subject to disciplinary action under Health & Saf. Code sections 44072.2, subdivision (d), and 44072.10, subdivision (c), in that Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2 committed dishonest, fraudulent or deceitful acts whereby another was injured by issuing electronic smog certificates of compliance for Vehicles 1 through 5, identified in paragraphs 27 through 42, without ensuring that a bona fide inspection was performed 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.

### **SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

### (Violations of the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program – Respondent Vargas)

49. Respondent Vargas' smog check inspector license is subject to disciplinary action under Health & Saf. Code sections 44072.2, subdivision (a) and 44072.10, subdivision (c)(4), in that Respondent Vargas violated section 44012 of that Code. Specifically, Respondent Vargas failed to perform the emission control tests on Vehicles 1 through 5, identified in paragraphs 27 through 42, in accordance with procedures prescribed by the department.

### SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

### (Failure to Comply with Regulations – Respondent Vargas)

- 50. Respondent Vargas' smog check inspector license is subject to disciplinary action under Health & Saf. Code sections 44072.2, subdivision (c) and 44072.10, in that regarding Vehicles 1 through 5, identified in paragraphs 27 through 42 above, he failed to comply with provisions of the CCR, as follows:
- a. <u>Section 3340.30, subdivision (a)</u>: Respondent Vargas failed to inspect and test the vehicles in accordance with Health & Saf. Code sections 44012 and 44035, and CCR section 3340.42.
- b. <u>Section 3340.42</u>: Respondent Vargas failed to conduct the required smog test on vehicles in accordance with Bureau's specifications.

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#### **EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

### (Dishonesty, Fraud or Deceit)

51. Respondent Vargas' smog check inspector license is subject to disciplinary action under Health & Saf. Code sections 44072.2, subdivision (d), and 44072.10, in that he committed dishonest, fraudulent, or deceitful acts whereby another was injured by using false information for electronic smog certificates of compliance issued for Vehicles 1 through 5, identified in paragraphs 27 through 42, thereby failing to perform bona fide inspections of the emission control devices and systems on the vehicles and depriving the People of the State of California of the protection afforded by the Motor Vehicle Program.

### NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

52. Respondent Vargas' smog check inspector license is subject to disciplinary action under Health & Saf. Code sections 44072.2, subdivision (h), and 44045.6, subdivision (c), in that he failed to complete remedial training as required by Citation Number M2022-1048.

### **MATTERS IN AGGRAVATION**

- 53. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed, Complainant alleges as follows:
- 54. On or about September 16, 2022, the Bureau issued Citation Number C2022-1047 to Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2 for violating Health & Saf. Code section 44012. On or about August 18, 2022, Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2 issued a certificate of compliance for a Bureau undercover vehicle with missing or modified Air Injection System (AIS) components. The Bureau directed Stanislaus Smog #2 to pay a \$1,000.00 fine. Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2 complied with the citation on or about October 21, 2022.

### OTHER MATTERS

55. Pursuant to 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 Stanislaus Smog #2 upon finding that Respondent Stanislaus Smog #2 has or is engaged in a course of repeated and willful violations of the laws and regulations pertaining to an automotive repair dealer.

1	7. Taking such other and fu	rther action as deemed necessary and proper.
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3	DATED: As of Digital Signature Date	PATRICK DORAIS
4		Chief
5 6		Bureau of Automotive Repair Department of Consumer Affairs State of California Complainant
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(STANISLAUS SMOG 2 INC. DBA STANISLAUS SMOG #2; JOSE G. VARGAS) ACCUSATION