Future Testing of Pre-OBD II Vehicles

Clay Leek BAR Executive Office January 25, 2024

Introduction

- BAR's Sunset Bill (AB 1263) includes several provisions including:
 - Authorizes BAR to establish a centralized testing network for model year 1995 (pre-OBD II) and older vehicles no earlier than January 1, 2025
 - Must be competitively bid
 - May include subcontracted licensed Smog Check stations (i.e., centralized/hybrid)
 - Authorizes BAR to begin testing model year 1996 -1999 vehicles using the BAR
 Onboard Diagnostic Inspection System (BAR-OIS) no earlier than January 1, 2025

Considerations (1 of 2)

- Although the population of older vehicles (model year 1976 -1995) is relatively small (615,200), it is still a large part of the Smog Check emissions inventory (17.6%)
 - Continued testing of this population of vehicles is critical to meeting State Implementation Plan (SIP) commitments
- Shifting the testing of model year 1996 -1999 to the BAR-OIS without establishing an alternative testing network would:
 - Provide even less incentive for STAR stations to maintain BAR-97 equipment
 - Exacerbate challenges for owners of older vehicles seeking BAR-97 inspections
 - Increase pressure to exempt this population of vehicles from Smog Check

Considerations (2 of 2)

- Establishing a centralized/hybrid network and shifting the testing of model year 1996 -1999 vehicles benefits consumers and the Smog Check industry
 - Improved air quality
 - Reduced BAR-97 testing costs for consumers who own older vehicles
 - Helps to ensure adequate program area coverage for BAR-97 testing
 - Removes burdensome BAR-97 equipment requirements for STAR stations who no longer wish to continue BAR-97 testing
 - Increases the population of vehicles that can be testing on the OIS
 - Allows a pathway for existing high performing stations to continue BAR-97 testing

Today's Discussion

- BAR is seeking input on if and when a centralized/hybrid network should be established
 - Implementation is likely a two-to-three-year process
 - What specific metrics or criteria should drive the initiation of this process?

Metrics / Criteria

- The cost of a BAR-97 inspection
- The cost of performing a centralized/hybrid BAR-97 inspection
- Smog Check station willingness/ability to maintain BAR-97 equipment
- BAR-97 vendors willingness/ability to maintain BAR-97 equipment
- BAR-97 test volume of STAR and non-STAR stations
- Population of older vehicles
- Contribution of older vehicles to the emissions inventory
- Consumer complaints relative to the ability to obtain a BAR-97 inspection

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