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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY SMOG CHECK STATION'S LICENSE SUSPENDED

Bureau of Automotive Repair alleges "clean piping" by Absolute Test Only

VAN NUYS – Owners and technicians at Absolute Test Only, a Smog Check station in Van Nuys, have had their licenses suspended after investigators with the California Department of Consumer Affairs Bureau of Automotive Repair (Bureau) discovered the station was sneaking cars past smog sensors, an illegal practice known as "clean piping." This latest shut down is part of the Bureau's mission to ensure that California consumers are protected against unfair practices in the marketplace.

"Clean piping is a serious problem that undermines the integrity of the Smog Check program and adversely impacts the air we breathe," said Bureau Chief Sherry Mehl. "The Bureau is committed to taking swift action against Smog Check station owners and technicians who engage in these practices."

"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.

Administrative Law Judge Joseph D. Montoya granted the Bureau's request for Interim Suspension Orders to immediately suspend the Automotive Repair Dealer registration and Smog Check station license of Victor Kanevsky, the owner of Absolute Test Only located at 15201 Oxnard St. Unit B, Van Nuys. In addition, the Advanced Emission Specialist Technician license of employee Jone Adwar Sapa were suspended.

The Bureau sought the ISOs to shut down Absolute Test Only and prevent Kanevsky and Sapa from being able to work as licensed Smog Check technicians while the Bureau proceeds with its enforcement case. The Bureau is seeking to permanently revoke the licenses of Kanevsky and Sapa.

An administrative hearing will be held at a later date to address the violations found during the investigation. Additionally, The Bureau has submitted the results of the investigation to the Office of the Los Angeles County District Attorney for criminal prosecution.

The Bureau administers the Smog Check program, which is a key component of the state's clean air efforts, since more than 40 percent of air pollution comes from gasoline powered cars and trucks.

"Auto pollution is a threat to public health," said Department of Consumer Affairs Acting Director Brian Stiger. "The Bureau of Automotive Repair will continue to prosecute smog check station operators and technicians who defraud and endanger the public by keeping polluting cars on the road."

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.

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