



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Banning Smog Check Station's License Revoked

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Consumer Affairs' Bureau of Automotive Repair has revoked the licenses of a Banning Smog Check station and one of its employees, effective today, for cheating the state's Smog Check Program.

Bureau investigators found that vehicles were being "clean piped" at Desert Junction Smog Test Only (390 S. San Geronio Avenue, Unit B, Banning, CA 92220) by technician John Louis Barrow, Jr. and that he was aided by station owner Charles Taylor.

"Clean piping" is when a vehicle that would not pass a Smog Check 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, but enters the data for the vehicle for which the Smog Check certificate is required.

"Clean piping is illegal and cannot be tolerated," said Bureau Chief Patrick Dorais. "This fraudulent conduct undermines the many honorable smog stations and technicians performing accurate inspections on thousands of cars every day. It threatens the quality of air we all breathe."

In addition to having his license revoked, Barrow was convicted of criminal charges related to computer crimes, ordered to community services in lieu of jail time and ordered to pay over \$12,000 in restitution.

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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