



OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

1625 North Market Boulevard, Suite N-323, Sacramento, CA 95834

P (916) 574-8170 F (916) 574-8612 | www.dca.ca.gov

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Glenn Mason
(916) 574-8168

September 6, 2011

Solano County Smog Check Technician Sentenced for Illegally Certifying Cars

Charged with "clean plugging" vehicles at stations in Fairfield and Vacaville

SOLANO COUNTY – A former Solano County Smog Check Technician was sentenced Monday to 30 days in jail and three years formal probation after pleading guilty to issuing illegal Smog Check Certificates of Compliance at two Smog Check shops in Solano County.

Rene Tinoco Servin's sentence was the result of an investigation by the Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair (DCA/BAR) in conjunction with the Solano County District Attorney's office. As part of a plea bargain, he pleaded guilty to submitting false information to BAR's emissions information system and to filing a false vehicle registration document, both of which are felonies. He was originally facing 44 felony counts.

A BAR investigation revealed 34 separate instances of "clean plugging" at Smog King in Vacaville and an additional eight instances of "clean plugging" at Smog King in Fairfield.

“Clean plugging” consists of using a vehicle’s properly functioning On Board Diagnostic (OBD II) system to generate passing OBD II test results in order to illegally issue a smog certificate to a vehicle that will not pass an OBDII test on its own or is not present for testing.

BAR revoked Servin’s Smog Check Technician license in April 2011, after a BAR investigation found he had conspired to conduct improper inspections on numerous vehicles.

BAR also submitted the findings of its investigations to the Solano County District Attorney’s office, which used the findings to undertake a criminal prosecution that led to yesterday’s sentencing.

#