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ВЕГОГ	RE THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOR THE BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR	
	CALIFORNIA
	LG N 70/01 0046
In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against:	Case No. 79/21-8246
EVAN I. CASTANEDA-OWNER DBA	EIDOT AMENDED ACCUICATION
ROUTE 66 SMOG 743 W. Route 66 Unit # 4	FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION
Glendora, CA 91740 Automotive Repair Dealer Registration No.	
ARD 272698 Smog Check Station License No. RC 272698	
EVAN IVALDO CASTANEDA AKA	
EVAN CASTANEDA-GONZALEZ 8730 Buckeye Ct.	
Fontana, CA 92335 Smog Check Inspector License No. EO	
150285 Smog Check Repair Technician License	
Number EI 150285 (formerly Advanced Emission Specialist Technician License No.	
EA 150285)	
and	
JAIME A. RUANO 1252 Belgreen Dr.	
Whittier, CA 90601 Smog Check Inspector License No. EO 641820	
Respondents.	
	1

PARTIES

1. Patrick Dorais ("Complainant") brings this First Amended Accusation solely in his official capacity as the Chief of the Bureau of Automotive Repair ("Bureau"), Department of Consumer Affairs.

Evan I. Castaneda-Owner dba Route 66 Smog

Automotive Repair Dealer Registration

2. On or about April 26, 2013, the Bureau issued Automotive Repair Dealer Registration No. ARD 272698 to Evan I. Castaneda-Owner dba Route 66 Smog ("Respondent Route 66"). The Automotive Repair Dealer Registration was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on April 30, 2022, unless renewed.

Smog Check Station License

3. On or about May 23, 2013, the Bureau issued Smog Check Station License No. RC 272698 to Respondent Route 66. The Smog Check Station License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on April 30, 2022, unless renewed.

STAR Station Certification

4. On or about October 16, 2014, the Bureau certified Route 66 Smog as a STAR Station. The certification will remain active unless ARD 272698 and/or RC 272698 is revoked, canceled, becomes delinquent, or the certification is invalidated.

Evan Ivaldo Castaneda

Technician License/Inspector License

(formerly Advanced Emission Specialist Technician License Number EA 150285)

5. In 1996, the Bureau issued Advanced Emission Specialist Technician License No. EA 150285 to Evan Ivaldo Castaneda aka Evan Castaneda-Gonzalez ("Respondent Castaneda").

Respondent Castaneda's Advanced Emission Specialist Technician License was due to expire on March 31, 2014, however, was cancelled on March 6, 2014. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 3340.28, subdivision (e) ¹, the license was renewed, pursuant to

¹ Effective August 1, 2012, California Code of Regulations, title 16, sections 3340.28, 3340.29, and 3340.30 were amended to implement a license restructure from the Advanced

1	17. Health & Saf. Code section 44072.2 states, in pertinent part:
2	The director may suspend, revoke, or take other disciplinary action against a
3	license as provided in this article if the licensee, or any partner, officer, or director thereof, does any of the following:
4	(a) Violates any section of this chapter [the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program (Health and Saf. Code § 44000, et seq.)] and the regulations adopted pursuant to it,
5	which related to the licensed activities.
6	
7	(c) Violates any of the regulations adopted by the director pursuant to this chapter.
8	(d) Commits any act involving dishonesty, fraud, or deceit whereby another is
9	injured
10	18. Health & Saf. Code section 44072.10 states, in pertinent part:
11	
12	(c) The department shall revoke the license of any smog check technician or station licensee who fraudulently certifies vehicles or participates in the fraudulent
inspection of vehicles. A fraudu	inspection of vehicles. A fraudulent inspection includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
14	the following.
15	(4) Intentional or willful violation of this about a converged at an arms of the converged
16	(4) Intentional or willful violation of this chapter or any regulation, standard, or procedure of the department implementing this chapter
17	19. Health & Saf. Code section 44072.8 states that when a license has been revoked or
18	suspended following a hearing under this article, any additional license issued under this chapter
19	in the name of the licensee may be likewise revoked or suspended by the director.
20	REGULATORY PROVISIONS
21	20. California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 16, section 3340.24, subdivision (c),
22	states:
23	"The bureau may suspend or revoke the license of or pursue other legal action against a
24	licensee, if the licensee falsely or fraudulently issues or obtains a certificate of compliance or a
25	certificate of noncompliance."
26	21. CCR, title 16, section 3340.30, subdivision (a), states that a licensed smog technician
27	shall at all times "[i]nspect, test and repair vehicles, as applicable, in accordance with section
28	

44012 of the Health & Saf. Code, section 44035 of the Health & Saf. Code, and section 3340.42 of this article."

- 22. CCR, title 16, section 3340.35, subdivision (c), states that a licensed smog check station "shall issue a certificate of compliance or noncompliance to the owner or operator of any vehicle that has been inspected in accordance with the procedures specified in section 3340.42 of this article and has all the required emission control equipment and devices installed and functioning correctly."
- 23. CCR, title 16, section 3340.41, subdivision (c), states that "[n]o person shall enter into the emissions inspection system any vehicle identification information or emission control system identification data for any vehicle other than the one being tested. Nor shall any person knowingly enter into the emissions inspection system any false information about the vehicle being tested."
- 24. CCR, title 16, section 3340.42, sets forth specific emissions test methods and procedures which apply to all vehicles inspected in the State of California.

COST RECOVERY

25. Bus. & Prof. Code section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that a Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

DATA REVIEW: CLEAN TANKING

26. The Bureau has become aware of certain methods that some Smog Check stations and Smog Check inspectors use to fraudulently issue smog certificates to vehicles that may not or will not pass a Smog Check test on their own, or in some instances, are not even present during the time the test is performed. "Clean tanking" is one such method, during which the Low Pressure Fuel Evaporative Test (LPFET) is performed using the LPFET equipment calibration tank instead of connecting to the subject vehicle's fuel inlet to determine if there is a leak in the system. The LPFET tests the functionality of the vehicle's Evaporative Emissions Control (EVAP) system by introducing inert Nitrogen gas into the vehicle's fuel system, which includes

the fuel tank, until it reaches a predetermined pressure and then holds that pressure for a specified period of time to confirm no leaks are present in the system. As part of this test, the LPFET equipment measures the "headspace volume" based upon the volume of gas needed to achieve a specified pressure as the Nitrogen gas is introduced into the vehicle's fuel tank, and records that data to the Vehicle Information Database (VID). The "headspace volume" is the volume of the vapor space in the fuel tank above the fuel level. This means a vehicle with a full tank of gas will have a smaller headspace volume than a vehicle with less fuel in the tank. The LPFET equipment must pass a calibration test every 3 days to verify its ability to properly measure the volume of Nitrogen gas introduced during a test and the pressure readings. In order to pass the calibration test, the amount of Nitrogen gas introduced to the calibration tank during the test must be within the 1.5 to 2.5 gallon headspace volume range. If the LPFET equipment fails a calibration test, the LPFET tester is locked and the station is not able to perform the LPFET test until the unit passes.

- 27. On June 30, 2021, the Bureau conducted a review of Route 66 Smog's BAR-97 Smog Check inspection records from the VID for vehicles that received an LPFET test during the period of January 1, 2020 through June 29, 2021. The review showed a total of 562 LPFET tests passed. Of those 562 LPFET tests, 79.18% had a calculated headspace volume within the 1.5 to 2.5 gallon range, the same range the LPFET calibration tank is required to maintain, resulting in 445 possible fraudulent certifications issued by Route 66 Smog. VID data show that of certified vehicles statewide that received an LPFET test during the same period of time, just 14.08% reported a calculated headspace volume within the 1.5 to 2.5 gallon range. After adjusting for the statewide percentage of expected headspace volume results in this range, the data show that Route 66 Smog issued approximately 366 fraudulent certifications utilizing the clean tanking method.
- 28. Of the 562 vehicles certified by Route 66 Smog with passing LPFET inspections between January 1, 2020 through June 29, 2021, Respondent Castaneda performed 560, with 14.08% reporting calculated headspace volumes within the 1.5 to 2.5 gallon range, resulting in 443 possible fraudulent certifications. After adjusting for the statewide percentage of expected headspace volume results in this range (14.08%), the data show that Respondent Castaneda issued approximately 364 fraudulent certifications utilizing the clean tanking method.

29. Of the 562 vehicles certified by Route 66 Smog with passing LPFET inspections between January 1, 2020 through June 29, 2021, Respondent Ruano performed 2, with 14.08% reporting calculated headspace volumes within the 1.5 to 2.5 gallon range, resulting in 2 possible fraudulent certifications. After adjusting for the statewide percentage of expected headspace volume results in this range (14.08%), the data show that Respondent Ruano issued approximately 2 fraudulent certifications utilizing the clean tanking method.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Fraud)

30. Respondent Route 66's Automotive Repair Dealer Registration is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Bus. & Prof. Code section 9884.7, subdivision (a)(4), in that he committed acts that constitute fraud by issuing electronic certificates of compliance for 366 vehicles, as described above in paragraph 27, without performing bone fide inspections of the emission control devices and systems on those vehicles, thereby depriving the People of the State of California of the protection afforded by the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations contained in paragraphs 26 through 29, above, as though set forth fully herein.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Material Violation of Automotive Repair Act)

31. Respondent Route 66's Automotive Repair Dealer Registration is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Bus. & Prof. Code section 9884.7, subdivision (a)(6), in that he failed in a material respect to comply with the provisions of this chapter or regulations adopted pursuant to it when he issued electronic certificates of compliance for 366 vehicles, as described above in paragraph 27, without performing bona fide inspections of the emission control devices and systems on those vehicles, thereby depriving the People of the State of California of the protection afforded by the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations contained in paragraphs 26 through 29, above, as though set forth fully herein.

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THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Violations of the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program)

- 32. Respondent Route 66's Smog Check Station License is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Health & Saf. Code section 44072.2, subdivision (a), in that he failed to comply with the following sections of that Code:
- a. <u>Section 44012</u>: Respondent failed to ensure that the emission control tests were performed on 366 vehicles, as described in paragraph 27 above, in accordance with procedures prescribed by the department.
- b. <u>Section 44015, subdivision (b)</u>: Respondent issued electronic smog certificates of compliance for 366 vehicles, as described in paragraph 27 above, without ensuring that the vehicles were properly tested and inspected to determine if they were in compliance with Health & Saf. Code section 44012.

Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations contained in paragraphs 26 through 29, above, as though set forth fully herein.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Comply with Regulations Pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program)

- 33. Respondent Route 66's Smog Check Station License is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Health & Saf. Code section 44072.2, subdivision (c), in that he failed to comply with provisions of California Code of Regulations, title 16, as follows:
- a. <u>Section 3340.24, subdivision (c)</u>: Respondent falsely or fraudulently issued electronic smog certificates of compliance 366 vehicles as described in paragraph 27 above.
- b. <u>Section 3340.30, subdivision (a)</u>: Respondent failed to inspect and test 366 vehicles, as described in paragraph 27 above, in accordance with Health & Saf. Code sections 44012 and 44035, and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 3340.42.
- c. <u>Section 3340.35, subdivision (c)</u>: Respondent issued electronic smog certificates of compliance for 366 vehicles, as described in paragraph 27 above, even though those vehicles had not been inspected in accordance with section 3340.42.

- d. <u>Section 3340.41, subdivision (c)</u>: Respondent knowingly entered false information into the emissions inspection system for 366 vehicles as described in paragraph 27 above.
- e. <u>Section 3340.42</u>: Respondent failed to ensure that the smog inspections conducted on 366 vehicles, as described in paragraph 27 above, were done in accordance with the Bureau's specifications.

Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations contained in paragraphs 26 through 29, above, as though set forth fully herein.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Dishonesty, Fraud or Deceit)

34. Respondent Route 66's Smog Check Station License is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Health & Saf. Code section 44072.2, subdivision (d), in that he committed dishonest, fraudulent, or deceitful acts whereby another was injured by issuing electronic smog certificates of compliance for 366 vehicles, as described in paragraph 27 above, without performing bona fide inspections 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. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations contained in paragraphs 26 through 29, above, as though set forth fully herein.

SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Violations of the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program)

- 35. Respondent Castaneda's Smog Check Inspector License and Smog Check Repair License are subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Health & Saf. Code section 44072.2, subdivision (a), in that he failed to comply with the following sections of that code:
- a. <u>Section 44032</u>: Respondent failed to ensure that the emission control tests were performed on 364 vehicles, as described in paragraph 28 above, in accordance with Health & Saf. Code section 44012.
- b. <u>Section 44015, subdivision (b)</u>: Respondent issued electronic smog certificates of compliance for 364 vehicles, as described in paragraph 28 above, without ensuring that the

injured by issuing electronic smog certificates of compliance for 364 vehicles, as described in paragraph 28 above, without performing bona fide inspections 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. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations contained in paragraphs 26 through 29, above, as though set forth fully herein.

NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Violations of the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program)

- 38. Respondent Ruano's Smog Check Inspector License is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Health & Saf. Code section 44072.2, subdivision (a), in that he failed to comply with the following sections of that code:
- a. <u>Section 44032</u>: Respondent failed to ensure that the emission control tests were performed on 2 vehicles, as described in paragraph 29 above, in accordance with Health & Saf. Code section 44012.
- b. <u>Section 44015, subdivision (b)</u>: Respondent issued electronic smog certificates of compliance for 2 vehicles, as described in paragraph 29 above, without ensuring that the vehicles were properly tested and inspected to determine if they were in compliance with Health & Saf. Code section 44012.

Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations contained in paragraphs 26 through 29, above, as though set forth fully herein.

TENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Comply with Regulations Pursuant

to the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program)

- 39. Respondent Ruano's Smog Check Inspector License is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Health & Saf. Code section 44072.2, subdivision (c), in that he failed to comply with provisions of California Code of Regulations, title 16, as follows:
- a. <u>Section 3340.24, subdivision (c)</u>: Respondent falsely or fraudulently issued electronic smog certificates of compliance for 2 vehicles as described in paragraph 29 above.

- b. <u>Section 3340.30, subdivision (a)</u>: Respondent failed to inspect and test 2 vehicles, as described in paragraph 29 above, in accordance with Health & Saf. Code sections 44012 and 44035, and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 3340.42.
- c. <u>Section 3340.41, subdivision (c)</u>: Respondent knowingly entered false information into the emissions inspection system for 2 vehicles as described in paragraph 29 above.
- d. <u>Section 3340.42</u>: Respondent failed to ensure that the smog inspections conducted on 2 vehicles, as described in paragraph 29 above, were done in accordance with the Bureau's specifications.

Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations contained in paragraphs 26 through 29, above, as though set forth fully herein.

ELEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Dishonesty, Fraud or Deceit)

40. Respondent Ruano's Smog Check Inspector License is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Health & Saf. Code section 44072.2, subdivision (d), in that he committed dishonest, fraudulent, or deceitful acts whereby another was injured by issuing electronic smog certificates of compliance for 2 vehicles, as described in paragraph 29 above, without performing bona fide inspections 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. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations contained in paragraphs 26 through 29, above, as though set forth fully herein.

OTHER MATTERS

- 41. Pursuant to Bus. & Prof. 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 Evan I. Castaneda-Owner dba Route 66 Smog, upon a finding that he has, or is, engaged in a course of repeated and willful violations of the laws and regulations pertaining to an automotive repair dealer.
- 42. Pursuant to Health & Saf. Code section 44072.8, if Smog Check Station License No. RC 272698, issued to Evan I. Castaneda-Owner dba Route 66 Smog, is revoked or suspended,

1	6. Revoking or suspending any additional license issued under Chapter 5 of Part 5 of
2	Division 26 of the Health and Saf. Code in the name of Evan Ivaldo Castaneda aka Evan
3	Castaneda-Gonzalez;
4	7. Revoking or suspending Smog Check Inspector License No. EO 641820, issued to
5	Jaime A. Ruano;
6	8. Revoking or suspending any additional license issued under Chapter 5 of Part 5 of
7	Division 26 of the Health and Saf. Code in the name of Jaime A. Ruano;
8	9. Ordering Evan I. Castaneda-Owner dba Route 66 Smog, Evan Ivaldo Castaneda aka
9	Evan Castaneda-Gonzalez and Jaime A. Ruano to pay the Bureau of Automotive Repair the
10	reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and
11	Professions Code section 125.3; and
12	Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
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15	DATED: As of Digitial Signature Date PATRICK DORAIS
16	Chief Bureau of Automotive Repair
17	Department of Consumer Affairs State of California
18	Complainant
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