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8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
10 **FOR THE BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR**
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. **79/14-100**

12 **NICHOLAS J. BACA**
13 612 18th Street, #2
Sacramento, California 95811

A C C U S A T I O N

14 **Smog Check Inspector License No.**
15 **EO 631138**
16 **Smog Check Repair Technician License**
17 **No. EI 631138**
(Formerly Advanced Emission Specialist
Technician License No. EA 631138)

Respondent.

18
19 Patrick Dorais ("Complainant") alleges:

20 **PARTIES**

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

23 2. On or about June 30, 2009, the Bureau issued Advanced Emission Specialist
24 Technician License Number EA 631138 to Nicholas J. Baca ("Respondent"). The Advanced
25 Emission Specialist Technician License expired on April 30, 2013. Pursuant to California Code
26 of Regulations, title 16, section 3340.28, subdivision (e), the license was renewed pursuant to
27 Respondent's election, as Smog Check Inspector License No. EO 631138, effective April 30,
28 2013, and Smog Check Repair Technician License No. EI 631138, effective July 29, 2013

1 (“technician licenses”).¹ Respondent’s technician licenses will expire on April 30, 2015, unless
2 renewed.

3 JURISDICTION

4 3. Health and Safety Code section 44002 provides, in pertinent part, that the Director
5 has all the powers and authority granted under the Automotive Repair Act for enforcing the
6 Motor Vehicle Inspection Program.

7 4. Health and Safety Code section 44072.6 provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration
8 or suspension of a license by operation of law, or by order or decision of the Director of
9 Consumer Affairs, or a court of law, or the voluntary surrender of the license shall not deprive the
10 Director of jurisdiction to proceed with disciplinary action.

11 5. Health and Safety Code section 44072.8 states that, “When a license has been
12 revoked or suspended following a hearing under this article, any additional license issued under
13 this chapter in the name of the licensee may be likewise revoked or suspended by the director.”

14 6. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 3340.28, subdivision (e), states that
15 “[u]pon renewal of an unexpired Basic Area Technician license or an Advanced Emission
16 Specialist Technician license issued prior to the effective date of this regulation, the license may
17 apply to renew as a Smog Check Inspector, Smog Check Repair Technician, or both.”

18 STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

19 7. Business and Professions Code (“Code”) section 22, subdivision (a), states:

20 “Board,” as used in any provision of this code, refers to the board in which the
21 administration of the provision is vested, and unless otherwise expressly provided,
22 shall include “bureau,” “commission,” “committee,” “department,” “division,”
23 “examining committee,” “program,” and “agency.”

24 8. Code section 477 provides, in pertinent part, that ABoard@ includes Abureau,@
Acommission,@ Acommittee,@ Adepartment,@ Adivision,@ Aexamining committee,@ Aprogram,@

25 ¹ Effective August 1, 2012, California Code of Regulations, title 16, sections 3340.28,
26 3340.29, and 3340.30 were amended to implement a license restructure from the Advanced
27 Emission Specialist Technician (EA) license and Basic Area (EB) Technician license to Smog
28 Check Inspector (EO) license and/or Smog Check Repair Technician (E1) license.

1 and Agency. A License includes certificate, registration or other means to engage in a
2 business or profession regulated by the Code.

3 9. Health & Safety Code section 44072.2 states, in pertinent part:

4 The director may suspend, revoke, or take other disciplinary action against a
5 license as provided in this article if the licensee, or any partner, officer, or director
thereof, does any of the following:

6 (a) Violates any section of this chapter [the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program
7 (Health and Saf. Code § 44000, et seq.)] and the regulations adopted pursuant to it,
which related to the licensed activities.

8 (c) Violates any of the regulations adopted by the director pursuant to this
9 chapter.

10 (d) Commits any act involving dishonesty, fraud, or deceit whereby another is
injured.

11 10. Health & Safety Code section 44072.10 states, in pertinent part:

12 (c) The department shall revoke the license of any smog check technician or
13 station licensee who fraudulently certifies vehicles or participates in the fraudulent
inspection of vehicles. A fraudulent inspection includes, but is not limited to, all of
14 the following:

15 (4) Intentional or willful violation of this chapter or any regulation, standard,
or procedure of the department implementing this chapter . . .

16 11. Health & Safety Code section 44072.8 states that when a license has been revoked or
17 suspended following a hearing under this article, any additional license issued under this chapter
18 in the name of the licensee may be likewise revoked or suspended by the director.

19 COST RECOVERY

20 12. Code section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that a Board may request the
21 administrative law judge to direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of
22 the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and
23 enforcement of the case.

24 UNDERCOVER OPERATION

25 13. On August 15, 2013, a Bureau undercover operator ("operator") took the Bureau's
26 2007 Jeep to Southport Smog in West Sacramento, California, for a smog inspection. The
27 operator requested a smog inspection, which was allegedly performed. The operator paid \$58 and
28 received a copy of the estimate, invoice, and a Vehicle Inspection Report.

1 c. **Section 3340.42:** Respondent failed to conduct the required smog tests on the vehicle
2 in accordance with the Bureau's specifications.

3 **MATTERS IN AGGRAVATION**

4 18. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent,
5 Complainant alleges as follows:

6 a. On or about October 7, 2010, the Bureau issued Citation No. M2011-0413 against
7 Respondent's Advanced Emission Specialist Technician License No. EA 631138 for violations of
8 the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program. On September 29, 2009, Respondent issued a certificate
9 of compliance to a Bureau undercover vehicle with a missing positive crankcase ventilation
10 system. Respondent was directed to complete an 8 hour training course and to submit proof of
11 completion to the Bureau within 30 days from receipt of the citation. Respondent completed the
12 training on December 3, 2010.

13 b. On or about February 4, 2011, the Bureau issued Citation No. M2011-0872 against
14 Respondent's Advanced Emission Specialist Technician License No. EA 631138 for violations of
15 the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program. On January 19, 2011, Respondent issued a certificate of
16 compliance to a Bureau undercover vehicle with a missing thermostatic air cleaner hot air tube.
17 Respondent was directed to complete a 16 hour training course and submit proof of completion to
18 the Bureau 30 days from receipt of citation. Respondent completed the training on March 28,
19 2011.

20 c. On or about June 26, 2012, the Bureau issued Citation No. M2012-1854 against
21 Respondent's Advanced Emission Specialist Technician License No. EA 631138 for violations of
22 the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program. Respondent was directed to complete a 68 hour Basic
23 Clean Air Car Course and submit proof of completion to the Bureau 60 days from receipt of
24 citation. Respondent appealed the citation and a hearing on the matter was held on January 28,
25 2014. On February 14, 2014, a Decision was issued effective March 26, 2014, denying
26 Respondent's appeal and upholding the citation.

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28 ///

1 **OTHER MATTERS**

2 19. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 44072.8, if the Smog Check Inspector
3 (EO) License No. 631138 or the Smog Check Repair Technician (EI) License No. 631138 issued
4 to Nicholas J. Baca is revoked or suspended, any additional license issued under this chapter in
5 the name of said licensee may be likewise revoked or suspended by the Director.

6 **PRAYER**

7 **WHEREFORE**, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,
8 and that following the hearing, the Director of Consumer Affairs issue a decision:

9 1. Revoking or suspending Nicholas J. Baca's Smog Check Inspector License
10 No. EO 631138;

11 2. Revoking or suspending Nicholas J. Baca's Smog Check Repair Technician License
12 No. EI 631138;

13 3. Revoking or suspending any additional license issued under Chapter 5 of the Health
14 and Safety Code in the name of Nicholas J. Baca;

15 2. Ordering Nicholas J. Baca to pay the Bureau of Automotive Repair the reasonable
16 costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions
17 Code section 125.3; and,

18 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

19
20 DATED: March 5, 2014


21 PATRICK DORAIS
22 Chief
23 Bureau of Automotive Repair
24 Department of Consumer Affairs
25 State of California
26 Complainant

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