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9	BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS					
10	FOR THE BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR					
11	STATE OF C	ALIFORNIA				
12						
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 79/23-15967				
14	TAMMY ANN JACKSON DBA					
15	E & G SMOG 15979 Foothill Blvd Unit #B Fontana, CA 92335	ACCUSATION				
16	Automotive Repair Dealer Registration No.					
17 18	ARD 293394 Smog Check Test Only Station License No. TC 293394,					
	10 293394,					
19 20	and					
21	BRAYAN ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ VEGA					
22	597 Silver Star Circle Colton, CA 92324					
23	Smog Check Inspector License No. EO 643653					
24	EO 043033					
25	Respondents.					
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#### **PARTIES**

- 1. Patrick Dorais (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as the Chief of the Bureau of Automotive Repair, Department of Consumer Affairs.
- 2. On or about February 11, 2019, the Bureau of Automotive Repair (Bureau) issued Automotive Repair Dealer Registration Number ARD 293394 to Tammy Ann Jackson dba E &G Smog (Respondent Jackson). The Automotive Repair Dealer Registration was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on February 28, 2025, unless renewed.
- 3. On or about December 10, 2020, the Bureau issued Smog Check Test Only Station License Number TC 293394 to Respondent Jackson. The Smog Check Test Only Station License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on February 28, 2025, unless renewed.
- 4. On or about January 22, 2021, the Bureau certified E & G Smog as a STAR station. The STAR certification will remain active unless the ARD registration and/or Smog Check station license is revoked, cancelled, licenses become delinquent, or certification is suspended.
- 5. On or about April 25, 2022, the Bureau issued Smog Check Inspector License Number EO 643653 to Brayan Alejandro Ramirez Vega (Respondent Vega). The Smog Check Inspector License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on May 31, 2026, unless renewed.

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 6. This Accusation is brought before the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs (Director) for the Bureau of Automotive Repair, under the authority of the following laws.
- 7. Business and Professions Code section 9884.7 provides that the Director may revoke an automotive repair dealer registration.
- 8. Business and Professions Code section 9884.13 provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a valid registration shall not deprive the director or chief of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against an automotive repair dealer or to render a decision temporarily or permanently invalidating (suspending or revoking) a registration.

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2	(g) Fails to make and keep records showing his or her transactions as a licensee, or fails to have those records available for inspection by the director or his			
3	or her duly authorized representative for a period of not less than three years after completion of any transaction to which the records refer, or refuses to comply with a			
4	written request of the director to make the records available for inspection.			
5	(h) Violates or attempts to violate the provisions of this chapter relating to the particular activity for which he or she is licensed.			
6	17. Health and Safety Code section 44072.10 states, in pertinent part:			
7				
8	(c) The department shall revoke the license of any smog check technician or			
9	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 the following:			
10	une reme ming.			
11	(4) Intentional or willful violation of this abouter or any regulation standard or			
12	(4) Intentional or willful violation of this chapter or any regulation, standard, or procedure of the department implementing this chapter			
13	18. Health and Safety Code section 44072.8 states that when a license has been revoked			
14	or suspended following a hearing under this article, any additional license issued under this			
15	chapter in the name of the licensee may be likewise revoked or suspended by the director.			
16	REGULATORY PROVISIONS			
17	19. California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 16, section 3340.24, subdivision (c),			
18	states:			
19	"The bureau may suspend or revoke the license of or pursue other legal action against a			
20	licensee, if the licensee falsely or fraudulently issues or obtains a certificate of compliance or a			
21	certificate of noncompliance."			
22	20. CCR, title 16, section 3340.30, subdivision (a), states that a licensed smog technician			
23	shall at all times "[i]nspect, test and repair vehicles, as applicable, in accordance with section			
24	44012 of the Health and Safety Code, section 44035 of the Health and Safety Code, and section			
25	3340.42 of this article."			
26	21. CCR, title 16, section 3340.35, subdivision (c), states that a licensed smog check			
27	station "shall issue a certificate of compliance or noncompliance to the owner or operator of any			
28	vehicle that has been inspected in accordance with the procedures specified in section 3340.42 of			
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this article and has all the required emission control equipment and devices installed and functioning correctly."

- 22. CCR, title 16, section 3340.41, subdivision (c), states that "[n]o person shall enter any vehicle identification information or emission control system identification data for any vehicle other than the one being tested into the EIS or OIS. Nor shall any person enter into the EIS or OIS any false information about the vehicle being tested."
- 23. 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.
  - 24. CCR, title 16, section 3373 states:

No automotive repair dealer or individual in charge shall, in filling out an estimate, invoice, or work order, or record required to be maintained by section 3340.15(e) of this chapter, withhold therefrom or insert therein any statement or information which will cause any such document to be false or misleading, or where the tendency or effect thereby would be to mislead or deceive customers, prospective customers, or the public.

## **COST RECOVERY**

25. Business and Professions 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.

## **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

#### Station Inspections of May 30, August 10, and August 29, 2023

26. On or about May 30, 2023, August 10, 2023, and August 29, 2023, the Bureau conducted station inspections of E & G Smog. During each inspection, the Bureau instructed Respondent Vega to perform thorough inspections following the Bureau's most current smog check procedures manual and warned Respondent Vega that failure to properly test vehicles would lead to disciplinary action. Respondent Vega was provided with a copy of the station inspection report for each inspection and stated that he would give a copy of each station inspection report to Respondent Jackson.

### **Undercover Operation #1**

- 27. On September 6, 2023, a Bureau undercover operator (operator) took the Bureau's 1991 Toyota (1991 Toyota) to E & G Smog and requested a smog check inspection. At that time, the Bureau had modified the 1991 Toyota by installing a defective fuel filler neck with a perforated surface that caused a fuel evaporative emissions control (EVAP) leak and had installed a tamper indicator on the perforated fuel filler neck to detect its removal or disturbance. The vehicle was also equipped with a video recording system. The perforated filler neck resulted in the escape of evaporative emissions that would be detected through a properly performed functional test of the evaporative controls. This modification caused the 1991 Toyota to fail the functional portion of a properly performed Smog Check inspection—specifically the Low Pressure Fuel Evaporative Test (LPFET)—performed on the modified vehicle in the Bureau's lab.
- 28. After arriving at E & G Smog on September 6, 2023, the operator told Respondent Vega that he needed a smog test which Respondent Vega informed the operator would be \$60.00. The operator waited outside of the testing bay while the test was performed and from his location could see the sides and rear of the 1991 Toyota. While the test was being done, the operator observed that Respondent Vega removed the vehicle's gas cap but never connected the hose of the LPFET tester to the vehicle. After the test was completed, Respondent Vega informed the operator that the 1991 Toyota had passed. The operator paid Respondent Vega \$60.00 cash and received a Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR) indicating the vehicle passed the smog inspection including the fuel evaporative control functional test. The video recording system installed on the 1991 Toyota showed that while the vehicle's gas cap door was opened and subsequently reinstalled, the LPFET gas cap adapter was never installed as would be required to properly perform a LPFET functional inspection. Additionally, the video shows that Respondent never performed the required functional ignition timing check on the 1991 Toyota despite manually entering a passing entry into the BAR97 analyzer indicating that he did.
- 29. On or about October 5, 2023, the Bureau re-inspected the 1991 Toyota and confirmed that it was still not in a condition to pass a properly performed California Smog Check inspection, as it again failed the functional portion—specifically the LPFET—of the Smog Check inspection

due to the perforated fuel filler neck. Additionally, the re-inspection revealed that the tamper indicator previously installed by the Bureau remained in place indicating that the fuel filler neck was never removed or disturbed.

## **Undercover Operation #2**

- 30. On December 6, 2023, the operator took the Bureau's 1993 Lexus (1993 Lexus) to E & G Smog and requested a smog check inspection. At that time, the Bureau had modified the 1993 Lexus by damaging the fuel tank vent line hose on the vehicle causing an EVAP system leak and had installed a tamper indicator on the damaged fuel tank vent line hose to detect its removal or disturbance. The vehicle was also equipped with a video recording system. The damaged fuel tank vent line hose resulted in the escape of evaporative emissions that would be detected through a properly performed functional test of the evaporative controls. This modification caused the 1993 Lexus to fail the functional portion of a properly performed Smog Check inspection—specifically the LPFET—performed on the modified vehicle in the Bureau's lab.
- 31. After the operator arrived at E & G Smog on December 6, 2023, Respondent Vega instructed him to drive the 1993 Lexus up to the front of the test bay and informed him that the cost of the inspection would be \$60.00. The operator was instructed by another individual to wait in an area of the facility away from the testing bay. The operator waited from this area where he could partially see the driver's side of the 1993 Lexus but not the side where the fuel door was located. After the test was completed, Respondent Vega informed the operator that the 1993 Lexus had passed, and handed the operator a copy of the VIR indicating the vehicle passed the smog inspection including the fuel evaporative control functional test. The operator paid an unidentified female in the office \$60.00 cash for the inspection. The video recording system installed on the 1993 Lexus showed that while the vehicle's gas cap door was opened and subsequently re-installed, the LPFET gas cap adapter was never installed as would be required to properly perform a LPFET functional inspection. Additionally, the video shows that Respondent never performed the required functional ignition timing check on the 1993 Lexus despite manually entering a passing entry into the BAR97 analyzer indicating that he did.

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32. On or about December 28, 2023, the Bureau re-inspected the 1993 Lexus and confirmed that it was still not in a condition to pass a properly performed California Smog Check inspection, as it again failed the functional portion—specifically the LPFET—of the Smog Check inspection due to the damaged fuel tank vent line hose. Additionally, the re-inspection revealed that the tamper indicator previously installed by the Bureau remained in place indicating that the fuel tank vent line hose was never removed or disturbed.

## FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Untrue or Misleading Statements)

33. Respondent Jackson's Automotive Repair Dealer Registration is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 9884.7, subdivision (a)(1), in that she made or authorized statements which she knew or in the exercise of reasonable care should have known to be untrue or misleading, by issuing electronic smog certificates of compliance for the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus, certifying that those vehicles were in compliance with applicable laws and regulations when, in fact, those vehicles had not been properly inspected. Respondent did not inspect the vehicles as required by Health and Safety Code section 44012. Complainant hereby incorporates paragraphs 27 through 32, above, as though set forth fully herein.

## SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### (Fraud)

34. Respondent Jackson's Automotive Repair Dealer Registration is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 9884.7, subdivision (a)(4), in that she committed acts that constitute fraud by issuing electronic smog certificates of compliance for the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus without performing a bona fide inspection 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 hereby incorporates paragraphs 27 through 32, above, as though set forth fully herein.

## THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE 1 2 (Material Violation of Automotive Repair Act) 35. Respondent Jackson's Automotive Repair Dealer Registration is subject to 3 disciplinary action pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 9884.7, subdivision (a)(6), 4 5 in that she failed in a material respect to comply with the provisions of this chapter or regulations adopted pursuant to it when she issued electronic smog certificates of compliance for the 1991 6 7 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus without performing a bona fide inspection of the emission control devices and systems on those vehicles, thereby depriving the People of the State of California of 8 9 the protection afforded by the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program. Complainant hereby incorporates paragraphs 27 through 32, above, as though set forth fully herein. 10 FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE 11 (Violations of the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program) 12 36. Respondent Jackson's Smog Check Test Only Station License is subject to 13 disciplinary action pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 44072.2, subdivision (a), in that 14 she failed to comply with the following sections of that Code: 15 Section 44012: Respondent failed to ensure that the emission control tests were 16 a. performed on the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus in accordance with procedures prescribed by 17 the department. 18 b. 19 Section 44015, subdivision (b): Respondent issued electronic smog certificates of compliance to the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus without ensuring that those vehicles were 20 properly tested and inspected to determine if they were in compliance with Health and Safety 21 Code section 44012. 22 Complainant hereby incorporates paragraphs 27 through 32, above, as though set forth fully 23 24 herein. /// 25 /// 26 27 ///

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#### FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE 1 2 (Failure to Comply with Regulations Pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program) 3 37. Respondent Jackson's Smog Check Test Only Station License is subject to 4 5 disciplinary action pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 44072.2, subdivision (c), in that she failed to comply with provisions of CCR, title 16, as follows: 6 Section 3340.24, subdivision (c): Respondent falsely or fraudulently issued 7 a. 8 electronic smog certificates of compliance for the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus. 9 b. Section 3340.30, subdivision (a): Respondent failed to inspect and test the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus in accordance with Health and Safety Code sections 44012 and 10 44035, and CCR, title 16, section 3340.42. 11 Section 3340.35, subdivision (c): Respondent issued electronic smog certificates of c. 12 compliance for the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus even though those vehicles had not been 13 14 inspected in accordance with section 3340.42. d. Section 3340.41, subdivision (c): Respondent knowingly entered false information 15 into the emissions inspection system for the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus. 16 Section 3340.42: Respondent failed to ensure that the required smog tests were 17 conducted on the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus in accordance with the Bureau's 18 specifications. 19 f. Section 3373: Respondent issued passing VIRs and electronic smog certificates of 20 compliance to the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus, falsely indicating those vehicles as being in 21 compliance with applicable laws and regulations when, in fact, the vehicles had not been properly 22 inspected. 23 24 Complainant hereby incorporates paragraphs 27 through 32, above, as though set forth fully herein. 25 /// 26 27 /// 28

## SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE 1 2 (Dishonesty, Fraud or Deceit) 38. Respondent Jackson's Smog Check Test Only Station License is subject to 3 disciplinary action pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 44072.2, subdivision (d), and 4 5 44072.10, subdivision (c), in that she committed dishonest, fraudulent, or deceitful acts whereby another was injured by issuing electronic smog certificates of compliance for the 1991 Toyota 6 and the 1993 Lexus without performing a bona fide inspection of the emission control devices 7 and systems on those vehicles, thereby depriving the People of the State of California of the 8 9 protection afforded by the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program. Complainant hereby incorporates paragraphs 27 through 32, above, as though set forth fully herein. 10 SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE 11 (Violations of the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program) 12 39. Respondent Vega's Smog Check Inspector License is subject to disciplinary action 13 14 pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 44072.2, subdivision (a), in that he failed to comply with the following sections of that code: 15 Section 44012: Respondent failed to ensure that the emission control tests were 16 a. performed on the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus in accordance with procedures prescribed by 17 the department. 18 b. 19 Section 44015: Respondent issued electronic smog certificates of compliance for the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus without ensuring that those vehicles were properly tested and 20 inspected to determine if they were in compliance with Health and Safety Code section 44012. 21 Complainant hereby incorporates paragraphs 27 through 32, above, as though set forth fully 22 herein. 23 24 /// /// 25 /// 26 27 28

## **EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

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

- 40. Respondent Vega's Smog Check Inspector License is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 44072.2, subdivision (c), in that, he failed to comply with provisions of CCR, title 16, as follows:
- a. <u>Section 3340.24, subdivision (c)</u>: Respondent falsely or fraudulently issued electronic smog certificates of compliance for the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus.
- b. <u>Section 3340.30, subdivision (a)</u>: Respondent failed to inspect and test the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus in accordance with Health and Safety Code sections 44012 and 44035, and CCR, title 16, section 3340.42.
- c. <u>Section 3340.41, subdivision (c)</u>: Respondent knowingly entered false information into the emissions inspection system for the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus.
- d. <u>Section 3340.42</u>: Respondent failed to conduct the required smog tests on the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus in accordance with the Bureau's specifications.
- e. <u>Section 3373</u>: Respondent issued passing VIRs and electronic smog certificates of compliance to the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus, falsely indicating those vehicles as being in compliance with applicable laws and regulations when, in fact, the vehicles had not been properly inspected.

Complainant hereby incorporates paragraphs 27 through 32 above, as though set forth fully.

#### **NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

#### (Dishonesty, Fraud or Deceit)

41. Respondent Vega's Smog Check Inspector License is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 44072.2, subdivision (d), and 44072.10, subdivision (c), in that he committed dishonest, fraudulent, or deceitful acts whereby another was injured by issuing an electronic smog certificates of compliance for the 1991 Toyota and the 1993 Lexus 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 hereby incorporates paragraphs 27 through 32, above, as though set forth fully herein.

## **DISCIPLINE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 42. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondents, Complainant alleges that on or about May 30, 2023, August 10, 2023, and August 29, 2023, Bureau representatives conducted station inspections of E & G Smog during which they advised Respondents that they must perform thorough inspections following the Bureau's most current Smog Check procedures manual and warned them that failure to properly test vehicles would lead to disciplinary action. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations contained in paragraph 26, above, as though set forth fully herein.
- 43. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondents, Complainant alleges that after arriving at E & G Smog on December 6, 2023, while waiting to have the 1993 Lexus tested, the operator—a licensed smog check inspector himself—observed a 2007 GMC Yukon (2007 Yukon) being tested. The operator observed large clouds of smoke emitting from the tailpipe of the 2007 Yukon when the engine was accelerated which should have caused the vehicle to fail the visible smoke test portion of the inspection. Test information later obtained by the Bureau from the Vehicle Information Database (VID) showed that the 2007 Yukon was inspected at E & G Smog by Respondent Vega, that it passed the functional smoke exhaust portion of the inspection, and that it was issued a smog certificate of compliance.

#### OTHER MATTERS

44. Pursuant to Business and Professions 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 Tammy Ann Jackson, upon a finding that she has, or is, engaged in a course of repeated and willful violations of the laws and regulations pertaining to an automotive repair dealer.

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1	7. Ordering Tammy Ann Jackson and Brayan Alejandro Ramirez Vega to pay the				
2	Bureau of Automotive Repair the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this				
3	case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and,				
4	8. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.				
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7	DATED.	As of digital gigmeture data			
8	DATED: As of digital signature date	As of digital signature date	PATRICK DORAIS Chief		
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