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BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
FOR THE BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: **TAHOMA COMMUNICATIONS LLC** **DBA NAPA SMOG TEST ONLY** **1509 Main St.** **Napa, CA 94559** **Automotive Reair Dealer No. ARD 277441** **Smog Check Station License No TC 277441** **GONZALO VASQUEZ** **1064 Marina Dr.** **Napa, CA 94558** **Smog Check Inspector (EO) License No. EO 636368** **And** **JOHN M. VASQUEZ** **1745 Olympia Court** **Napa, CA 94558** **Smog Check Inspector (EO) License No. EO 636122** Respondents.	Case No. 79/19-16426 **STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER AS TO TAHOMA COMMUNICATIONS LLC. ONLY**

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

PARTIES

1. Patrick Dorais (Complainant) is the Chief of the Bureau of Automotive Repair (Bureau). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Justin R. Surber, Deputy Attorney General.

2. Respondent Tahoma Communications, LLC., dba Napa Smog Test Only (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney William Ferreira whose address is:

William Ferreira
Automotive Defense Specialists
555 California Street, Suite 4925
San Francisco, CA 94104

3. On or about August 1, 2014, the Bureau issued Automotive Repair Dealer Registration Number ARD 277441 (Registration) to Respondent. The Registration was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on August 31, 2020, unless renewed.

4. On or about August 11, 2014, the Bureau issued Smog Check, Test Only, Station License Number TC 277441 (Smog Station License) to Respondent Tahoma. The Smog Station License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on August 31, 2020, unless renewed. The Smog Station License is STAR certified.

JURISDICTION

5. Accusation No. 79/19-16426 was filed before the Director, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on January 22, 2020. Respondent timely filed its Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.

6. A copy of Accusation No. 79/19-16426 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

7. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 79/19-16426. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

8. Respondent is fully aware of its legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against them; the right to present evidence and to testify on its own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

9. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

10. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 79/19-16426, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon its Automotive Repair Dealer Registration as well as for its Smog Check, Test Only, License and its STAR Certification.

11. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up its right to contest those charges.

12. Respondent agrees that its Automotive Repair Dealer Registration is subject to discipline and they agree to be bound by the Director's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

13. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Director of Consumer Affairs or the Director's designee. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the

staff of the Bureau of Automotive Repair may communicate directly with the Director and staff of the Department of Consumer Affairs regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or its counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that they may not withdraw its agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Director considers and acts upon it. If the Director fails to adopt this stipulation as the Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Director shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

14. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

15. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.

16. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Director may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Automotive Repair Dealer Registration No. ARD 277441 and Smog Check, Test Only, License No. TC 277441 issued to Respondent Tahoma Communications, LLC., dba Napa Smog Test Only are revoked. However, the revocations are stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions:

1. **Obey All Laws.** During the period of probation, Respondent shall comply with all federal and state statutes, regulations and rules governing all BAR registrations and licenses held

by Respondent.

2. **Posting of Sign**. (Applicable only when actual suspension of a registration or station license is ordered): During the period of suspension, Respondent shall prominently post a sign or signs, provided by BAR, indicating the beginning and ending dates of the suspension and indicating the reason for the suspension. The sign or signs shall be conspicuously displayed in a location or locations open to and frequented by customers. The location(s) of the sign(s) shall be approved by BAR and shall remain posted during the entire period of actual suspension.

3. **Quarterly Reporting.** During the period of probation, Respondent shall report either by personal appearance or in writing as determined by BAR on a schedule set by BAR, but no more frequently than once each calendar quarter, on the methods used and success achieved in maintaining compliance with the terms and conditions of probation.

4. **Report Financial Interests.** Respondent shall, within 30 days of the effective date of the decision and within 30 days from the date of any request by BAR during the period of probation, report any financial interest which any Respondent or any partners, officers, or owners of any Respondent facility may have in any other business required to be registered pursuant to Section 9884.6 of the Business and Professions Code.

5. **Access to Examine Vehicles and Records.** Respondent shall provide BAR representatives unrestricted access to examine all vehicles (including parts) undergoing service, inspection, or repairs, up to and including the point of completion. Respondent shall also provide BAR representatives unrestricted access to all records pursuant to BAR laws and regulations.

6. **Tolling of Probation.** If, during probation, Respondent leaves the jurisdiction of California to reside or do business elsewhere or otherwise ceases to do business in the jurisdiction of California, Respondent shall notify BAR in writing within 10 days of the dates of departure and return, and of the dates of cessation and resumption of business in California. All provisions of probation other than cost reimbursement requirements, restitution requirements, training requirements, and that Respondent obey all laws, shall be held in abeyance during any period of time of 30 days or more in which Respondent is not residing or engaging in business within the jurisdiction of California. All provisions of probation shall recommence on the effective date of

resumption of business in California. Any period of time of 30 days or more in which Respondent is not residing or engaging in business within the jurisdiction of California shall not apply to the reduction of this probationary period or to any period of actual suspension not previously completed. Tolling is not available if business or work relevant to the probationary license or registration is conducted or performed during the tolling period.

7. **Violation of Probation.** If Respondent violates or fails to comply with the terms and conditions of probation in any respect, the Director, after giving notice and opportunity to be heard may set aside the stay order and carry out the disciplinary order provided in the decision. Once Respondent is served notice of BAR's intent to set aside the stay, the Director shall maintain jurisdiction, and the period of probation shall be extended until final resolution of the matter.

8. **Maintain Valid License.** Respondent shall, at all times while on probation, maintain a current and active registration and/or license(s) with BAR, including any period during which suspension or probation is tolled. If Respondent's registration or license is expired at the time the decision becomes effective, the registration or license must be renewed by Respondent within 30 days of that date. If Respondent's registration or license expires during a term of probation, by operation of law or otherwise, then upon renewal Respondent's registration or license shall be subject to any and all terms and conditions of probation not previously satisfied. Failure to maintain a current and active registration and/or license during the period of probation shall also constitute a violation of probation.

9. **Cost Recovery.** Respondent shall pay the Bureau of Automotive Repair $3,293.09 for the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of case No. 79/19-16426. Respondent shall make 23 consecutive monthly payments in the amount of $ 137.22 and a final payment in the amount $137.03. Any further agreement for a scheduled payment plan shall require full payment to be completed no later than six (6) months before probation terminates. Respondent shall make payment by check or money order payable to the Bureau of Automotive Repair and shall indicate on the check or money order that it is for cost recovery payment for case No. 79/19-16426. Any order for payment of cost recovery shall remain in effect whether or not probation is tolled. Probation shall not terminate until full cost recovery payment has been made.

BAR reserves the right to pursue any other lawful measures in collecting on the costs ordered and past due, in addition to taking action based upon the violation of probation.

10. **Completion of Probation**. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's affected registration and/or license will be fully restored or issued without restriction, if Respondent meets all current requirements for registration or licensure and has paid all outstanding fees, monetary penalties, or cost recovery owed to BAR.

11. **License Surrender.** Following the effective date of a decision that orders a stay of invalidation or revocation, if Respondent ceases business operations or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request that the stay be vacated. Such request shall be made in writing to BAR. The Director and the BAR Chief reserve the right to evaluate the Respondent's request and to exercise discretion whether to grant the request or take any other action deemed appropriate or reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal granting of the request, the Director will vacate the stay order and carry out the disciplinary order provided in the decision. Respondent may not petition the Director for reinstatement of the surrendered registration and/or license, or apply for a new registration or license under the jurisdiction of BAR at any time before the date of the originally scheduled completion of probation. If Respondent applies to BAR for a registration or license at any time after that date, Respondent must meet all current requirements for registration or licensure and pay all outstanding fees or cost recovery owed to BAR and left outstanding at the time of surrender.

ACCEPTANCE

I am a member of Respondent Tahoma Communications, LLC. and I have the authority to sign this stipulation on behalf of Tahoma Communications, LLC. and bind Tahoma Communications, LLC to its terms. I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with our attorney, William Ferreira. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on Tahoma Communications, LLC's Automotive Repair Dealer Registration, Smog Check, Test Only, License, and STAR Certification Station. Tahoma Communications, LLC. enters into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily,

knowingly, and intelligently, and agrees to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Director of Consumer Affairs.

DATED: June 3, 2020

Signed Copy on File
NORMAN E. KITCHING, as member of and on behalf of Tahoma Communications, LLC.
Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Tahoma Communications, LLC., dba Napa Smog Test Only and Norman E. Kitching the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: June 3, 2020

Signed Copy on File
WILLIAM FERREIRA
Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Director of Consumer Affairs.

DATED: June 22, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
CHAR SACHSON
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

JUSTIN R. SURBER
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

SF2019202817

BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
FOR THE BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against**:** *****Respondent CO LIC***** Respondents.	Case No. 79/19-16426

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Director of Consumer Affairs and the Bureau of Automotive Repair as the Decision and Order in the above entitled matter.

This Decision shall become effective on November 24, 2020.

It is so ORDERED October 14, 2020.

Signature on File

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR