

Roadside Emissions Survey Program Overview

Gary Goodwin
Audits and Inspection Branch
April 24, 2025



Bureau of Automotive Repair

Introduction / Background

- BAR conducts emissions surveys on California roadways with assistance from the California Highway Patrol
- BAR's Roadside Emissions Survey Program is a statutorily required program designed to collect data that is used to evaluate the effectiveness of the California Smog Check Program
- Participation in the survey is 100% voluntary
- No personal information is collected from participants
- The program is established by:
 - Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Section 51.371
 - California Health and Safety Code Section 44081

Purpose

- Data collected through the program support the California Smog Check Program
 - Compliance with federal and state mandates for evaluating the performance of the Smog Check Program
 - Smog Check Performance Report
 - United States Environmental Protection Agency Report
- Improvements to the Smog Check Program through data-driven analysis
- Reduction of pollution to help keep California's air clean

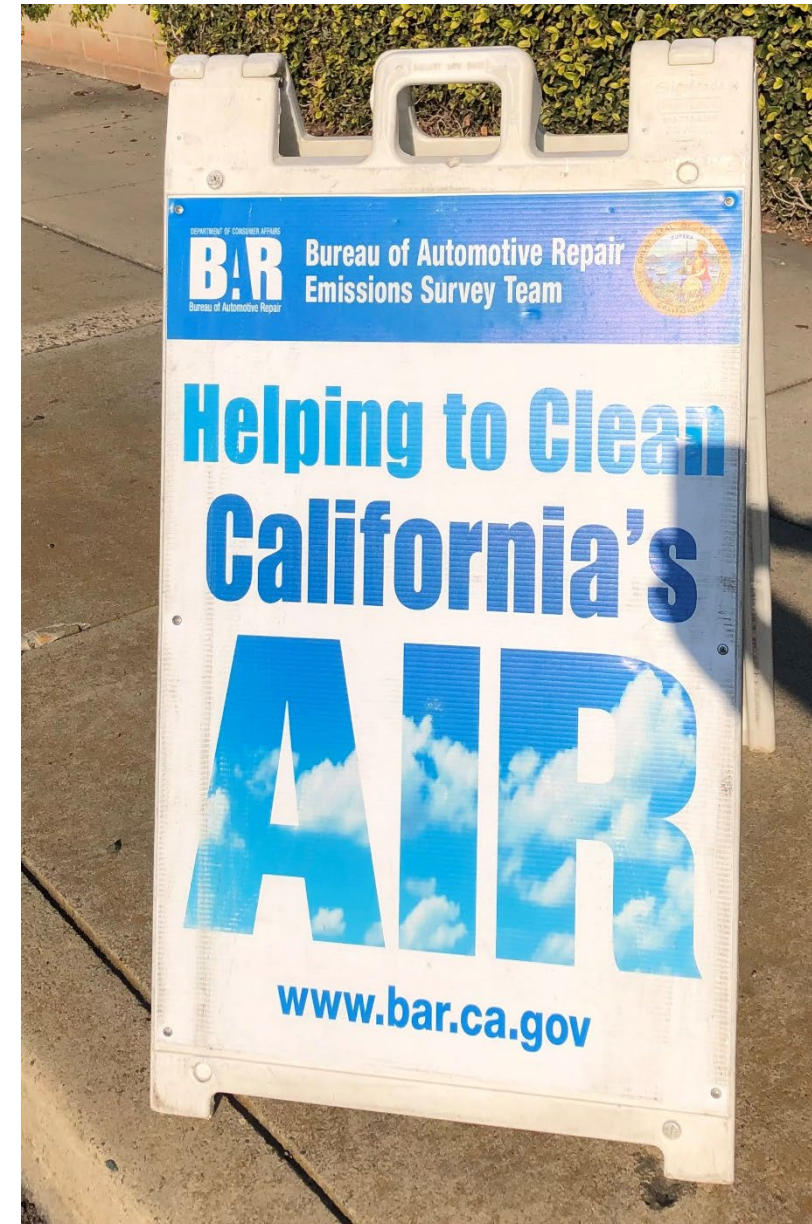
Process

- Survey teams consist of two to four BAR representatives, all of whom have automotive repair experience and training
- A California Highway Patrol officer directs the vehicle into the survey lane
- A BAR representative greets the consumer, explains the purpose of the survey, and addresses any questions
- The consumer decides whether or not to participate in the survey
- A BAR representative performs the inspection, which takes less than five minutes

Survey Locations

- Roadside emissions surveys are conducted in areas with large vehicle populations and air quality issues. Primarily, these areas include:
 - Central Valley
 - San Francisco Bay Area
 - Greater Los Angeles Area
 - Inland Empire
 - San Diego
- BAR coordinates with local authorities in advance to ensure awareness
- Survey sites are designed with traffic control plans to ensure safety
- Survey sites are clearly marked with signage to provide transparency and ensure the public understands the purpose of the survey

Signage



Consumer Participation

- Participation is 100% voluntary
- No personal information is collected from participants
- There are no consequences to consumers, regardless of the results
- The results do not impact the vehicle's Smog Check record
- The results do not take the place of a required Smog Check

Consumer Benefits

- Participants receive a Vehicle Inspection Report that includes details of the survey and information on any open safety recalls affecting the vehicle
- BAR representatives will alert participants to any obvious vehicle issues observed during the survey (e.g., major fluid leaks, low/flat tire, etc.)
- Participants are provided information on other BAR programs that may provide a benefit to the consumer (e.g., Consumer Assistance Program, Auto Body Inspection Program)
- Participants play an active role in helping the state's efforts to reduce emissions from motor vehicles and improve California's overall air quality

Contact Information

Gary Goodwin

Gary.Goodwin@dca.ca.gov

www.bar.ca.gov



Bureau of Automotive Repair