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February 9, 2026

Honorable John Laird
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Bureau of Automotive Repair – Supplemental Report – Consumer Assistance Program

Chair Laird and Chair Gabriel:

This correspondence fulfills the requirement of the Supplemental Report of the 2008 Budget Act (Item 1111-001-0582) to provide a report on the Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) operations for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

The Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) offers two CAP options for consumers: (1) Repair Assistance and (2) Vehicle Retirement.

Repair Assistance: Income-eligible consumers receive up to \$1,450¹ in emissions-related repairs for a vehicle that fails its required biennial Smog Check. Repairs must be performed at a STAR-certified Smog Check repair station.² BAR contracts with over 1,300 STAR-certified Smog Check repair stations to perform repair assistance services throughout the state.

To be eligible, a consumer's household income must be less than or equal to 225 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, as published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Income verification is based on at least one form of documentation, including, but not limited to: (A) an income tax return; (B) an employment warrant; or (C) evidence the applicant has received some form of public assistance. BAR pays 80 percent of costs to diagnose and

¹ On January 1, 2025, the maximum per-vehicle contribution for repair assistance was increased from \$1,200 to \$1,450 in emission related repairs for income-eligible consumers.

² STAR-certified Smog Check stations must meet higher testing performance standards than other licensed Smog Check stations, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 3392.2.

repair the vehicle. Participating consumers are responsible for any repair costs that exceed the state contribution limit.

Vehicle Retirement: Income-eligible consumers receive up to \$2,000³ to retire a vehicle at a BAR-authorized dismantler. Consumers who are not income eligible receive \$1,350 to retire a vehicle.

Consumers can only retire one vehicle every 12 months. At the time of application, the vehicle must be registered as operable with the Department of Motor Vehicles or have proof that it has been primarily operated in California for the two preceding years. The vehicle must be a passenger car or truck with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less. The vehicle also must pass a visual and operational inspection at the dismantler.

BAR has contracts with 35 dismantlers to perform vehicle retirement services. BAR provides a list of the authorized dismantlers to each consumer upon approval of their application.

CONSUMER PARTICIPATION

In Fiscal Year 2024-25, CAP repaired 4,866 vehicles and retired 23,606 vehicles.

PROGRAM COSTS

In Fiscal Year 2024-25, CAP expended: \$4,549,136 to repair vehicles; \$29,133,380 to retire vehicles; and \$9,276,904 to administer these programs.

EMISSIONS REDUCTION

BAR uses formulas developed in conjunction with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to estimate emissions reductions achieved through these programs. In Fiscal Year 2024-25, these programs reduced an estimated 988.6 tons of emissions.

SOUTH COAST AND SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR DISTRICTS

The State Implementation Plan focuses on air quality issues affecting the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and the San Joaquin Valley Air

³ On January 1, 2025, regulation-adopted incentives for vehicle retirement options under BAR's High Polluter Repair or Removal Program (HPRRP) increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000 for income-eligible consumers and from \$1,000 to \$1,350 for all others. Only vehicles that fail their most recent Smog Check inspection and have registration expired for no more than 120 days qualify for the HPRRP incentives.

A \$1,500 vehicle retirement incentive also is available to income-eligible consumers who do not qualify for the High Polluter Repair or Retirement Program (HPRRP) incentive of \$2,000. It is available through the Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program (EFMP), developed and managed in partnership with the California Air Resources Board (CARB). EFMP has more flexible registration-related eligibility criteria and will accept vehicles for retirement even if they pass their most recent Smog Check. However, the incentive for EFMP retirement was not increased on January 1, 2025, and remains at \$1,500, pending further evaluation by CARB.

Pollution Control District (APCD).

In Fiscal Year 2024-25, CAP repaired 1,726 vehicles and retired 10,361 vehicles in the South Coast AQMD, achieving an estimated 424.2 tons of emissions reductions. CAP also repaired 1,072 vehicles and retired 3,072 vehicles in the San Joaquin APCD, achieving an estimated 139.1 tons of emissions reductions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on these programs.

Sincerely,

Patrick Dorais

Patrick Dorais
Chief, Bureau of Automotive Repair

ATTACHMENTS: Summary of Statewide Program Statistics: Fiscal Year 2024-25

cc: Christine Aurre, Legislative Affairs Secretary
Erika Contreras, Secretary of the Senate
Sue Parker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Cara L. Jenkins, Legislative Counsel
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance
Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
Tomiquia Moss, Secretary, Business, Consumer Services, and
Housing Agency
Christine Lally, Acting Director, Department of Consumer Affairs

Bureau of Automotive Repair – Supplemental Report – Consumer Assistance Program

Summary of Statewide Program Statistics: Fiscal Year 2024-25

Program Metric	HPRRP Repair Assistance	HPRRP Vehicle Retirement: Income-Eligible Option	HPRRP Vehicle Retirement: General Option	EFMP Vehicle Retirement Income Eligible Only	Total
Assistance Amount (Per Vehicle) ¹	Up to \$1,450	\$2,000	\$1,350	\$1,500	-
Vehicles Repaired or Retired	4,866	9,583	6,762	7,261	28,472
Program Disbursements	\$4,549,136	\$14,315,893	\$6,223,597	\$8,593,891	\$33,682,516
Average Disbursement (Per Vehicle)	\$935	\$1,494	\$920	\$1,184	-

ESTIMATED ANNUAL EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS (TONS)

Emission	HPRRP Repair Assistance	HPRRP Vehicle Retirement: Income-Eligible Option	HPRRP Vehicle Retirement: General Option	EFMP Vehicle Retirement Income Eligible Only	Total
Reactive Organic Gases	50.5	200.3	141.3	151.7	543.8
Oxides of Nitrogen	56.2	137.9	97.3	104.5	395.9
Carbon Monoxide	8.9	16.2	11.4	12.3	48.8
Total	115.6	354.4	250.1	268.5	988.6

1. Starting January 1, 2025, repair assistance contributions provided up to \$1,450 in emission-related repairs for income-eligible consumers. Vehicle retirement incentives under BAR's HPRRP are \$2,000 for income-eligible consumers and \$1,350 for all others. The vehicle retirement incentive provided under the Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program (EFMP) remains at \$1,500, pending further evaluation by the California Air Resources Board.