



Automotive Service Councils of California
Professionals in Automotive Service ~ Since 1940

***"To elevate and Unite Automotive Professionals,
and give them voice."***

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ASCCA Responds to Release of Sierra Research Report

Sacramento, CA, February 25, 2010 – The Automotive Service Councils of California (ASCCA), California's largest state organization representing independent automotive repair facilities including smog shops, has reviewed a long-delayed report studying California's Smog Check program. The report, dated, March 12, 2009, report has just been released (February 23, 2010).

While one of the objectives was to compare the post-Smog Check performance from previous evaluation data, based on the data collected, the study concluded, among other things, that a high percentage of vehicles that initially passed Smog Check testing failed subsequent roadside inspection within a short period of time. However, a second conclusion, that "improper testing or falsified Smog Check test results appear to be contributing," is highly speculative.

"Our member shops, including those that perform smog-related repairs, are highly ethical, care about the proper maintenance of their customers' vehicles, and work with regulatory agencies to improve the Smog Check program and find ways to reduce air pollution and improve air quality," stated Jackie Miller, ASCCA's Executive Director. "ASCCA finds it extremely frustrating that it must defend the automotive industry from baseless accusations and attempts to create sensational headlines about fraudulent activities." She further noted, "ASCCA does not condone fraud. However, for the Sierra Research Report to conclude that these failures were due to fraud without specific facts amounts to pure speculation and paints a negative picture of the entire automotive industry. These types of conclusions should have been based on factual evidence; otherwise, they should have been left out of the Report altogether."

Stuart Terry, ASCCA President, further noted, "The scope of the study did not require the contractor to evaluate the reasons for the roadside inspection failure rate. In other words, it is not known whether these older vehicles failed for the same reason that required the initial testing/repairing in the first place." Furthermore, the study acknowledged that a higher failure rate was expected because the vehicles randomly inspected were older (Pre-1996).

A copy of the report, authorized by the California Air Resources Board (ARB) and Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR), is available at the following link:

http://www.imreview.ca.gov/reports/index_reports.shtml

Founded in 1940 by a small group of business owners in Southern California, ASCCA now has 29 chapters throughout the State of California. A statewide non-profit organization and the largest independent automotive repair organization in California, ASCCA's members represent all areas of the automotive repair industry, including mechanical, auto body, suppliers and educators. One of its objectives is to educate and train members in order to maintain a high level of honesty and integrity in the industry, and its members agree to adhere to its code of ethics.

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