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TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKSHOP REGARDING PROPOSED PILOT STUDY TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF REMOTE SENSING DEVICE (RSD) AS A SUPPLEMENTAL TOOL TO ENHANCE CALIFORNIA'S INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Background: In February 1998, the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) started implementing California's Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance Program (I/M) or Smog Check II in the six (6) ozone non-attainment areas of the State. Smog Check II is a key component of the 1994 State Implementation Plan (SIP), California's Master Plan to attain federal and State air quality standards. The 1994 SIP describes the strategies by which the non-attainment areas would attain the one-hour federal ozone standard by the statutory deadline. Smog Check II was expected to provide about 25 percent of the total SIP emission reduction targets between 1997 and 1999.

The Air Resources Board (ARB or Board), in cooperation with BAR, is required by State law [(Health and Safety Code Section 44021(e)] to compare the emission reductions being achieved by Smog Check II to the SIP emission reduction targets and to recommend means to improve the effectiveness of the program, if necessary.

The ARB's first evaluation report, submitted to the I/M Review Committee (IMRC) in July 2000, indicates that the emission reductions being achieved by the Smog Check II fell short of the SIP reduction targets. To improve the program's effectiveness and to attain full SIP compliance, ARB and BAR recommended seven (7) options, including the use of remote sensing, primarily to identify high polluters and to "clean screen" vehicles.

In order to evaluate the potential of remote sensing to accomplish this goal, the ARB and BAR are proposing to conduct a pilot study. Specifically, the pilot study will require a contractor to design a program, including the collection of up to 2 million valid RSD records, that will provide the basis to answer, at a minimum, the following questions:

- 1) Can RSD be an effective tool to identify gross-emitting vehicles between regular inspection cycles, and what are the associated benefits?
- 2) Can RSD be an effective tool to "clean screen" vehicles and exempt them from the next scheduled Smog Check inspection, thus reducing program cost?

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency

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- 3) Can RSD be an effective tool to identify vehicles that would be, based on the vehicle emission levels (and overall condition), candidates for early retirement (scrappage)?
- 4) Can RSD be used to improve the State's high emitter profile, used to direct vehicles to test-only stations?
- 5) Can RSD be used as a tool to periodically verify the emission reductions achieved by the Smog Check program?

Workshop: This proposed study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of remote sensing as a supplement to Smog Check II. In order to provide an opportunity for all interested stakeholders to provide input and understand the design and scope of the study, ARB and BAR staff will hold a public workshop on June 26, 2002, at the ARB Auditorium in El Monte. Issues to be discussed include specific goals and objectives, design, scope, procedures/methodology, emission estimates to show remote sensing benefits, data and reporting requirements, agency participation and respective roles, and other relevant issues. The agencies are particularly interested in whether other issues and questions should be addressed within the scope of the pilot program. A day-long workshop is planned; however, the workshop may end earlier than scheduled if all issues have been discussed.

Date: June 26, 2002
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Location: ARB Annex 4 Auditorium
9530 Telstar Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731

Should you have any questions or comments regarding the workshop, please contact John Urkov, Chief, In-Use Vehicle Programs Branch, by e-mail at jurkov@arb.ca.gov or by phone at (626) 575-6719.

Sincerely,

Allen Lyons, Chief /s/
Mobile Source Operations Division

Attachment