

Summary of BAR Advisory Group Meeting of January 15, 2015

By Jack Molodanof

Below is a summary of the BAR Advisory Group meeting that took place on January 15, 2015 in Sacramento. ASCCA members in attendance included Tracy Renee and Mary and Dave Kemnitz.

1) Introductions. Patrick Dorais opened the meeting with the usual introductions and advised that the meeting was being web-cast and questions can be emailed to the Committee.

2) DCA News. Awet Kidane (DCA Director) provided a brief overview and said the Governor wants to work with the auto industry on solving issues, including encouraging new automotive technologies.

3) OBD Inspection System (OIS) Presentation. The BAR announced that beginning March 9, 2015 smog stations must use an OBD Inspection system (BAR certified DAD) to test the following vehicles: 2000 and newer model-year (unless over 14,000 lbs) or those without OBD II; 1998 and newer diesel-powered vehicles and all hybrid vehicles. The BAR-97 EIS must not be used to inspect the above vehicles; all STAR certified stations are required to have an OIS; smog stations will only be allowed to use the 2013 Smog Check Manual. BAR is encouraging stations to start using the OIS system and begin the process as soon as possible. So far, there are about 5,750 active OIS units. BAR is expecting about 7,000+ units to be active by the March 9 deadline. Upcoming BAR-OIS software updates are planned. Also, OBD readiness monitor changes will be implemented in May on both BAR-97 and BAR-OIS. There was discussion about BAR-OIS connectivity issues and reducing failures by no OBD communication. There is more OIS information and training on BAR's website.

4) Automotive Resource Center Update. BAR has created a separate website (Hub) to connect with professionals/students/auto techs/shop owners in the industry: www.californiaarc.org. This website includes free education forums, ask and answer forums, training centers and a career forum (job seekers and employment). BAR plans on doing an outreach campaign to get people to use it and participate in it. Also, there is an opportunity to include links to training, education (e.g., scholarships), association websites, etc.

5) Career Technical Education Presentation. Tammy Duggan from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation on teaching credentials. She covered CTE-designated credentials industry sectors, including specific occupations, requirements for obtaining CTE credentials, total amount of credentials issued per year and she gave an overview of sample CTE salary schedules.

6) Prop 65/New Regulations. Prop 65 regulations are being updated. The public comment period closes on April 8 and there is a public hearing on March 25. Prop 65 regulations will require businesses (including repair facilities) to inform and provide public notice (i.e., posted signs) to Californians about breathing the air in this area, or that skin contact with petroleum products can expose you to chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm. The regulations require new signs to be posted at public entrances and must contain a certain symbol,

the word "WARNING" and specified language along with a website for more information. Small businesses with fewer than 10 employees are exempt from the Prop 65 warning requirements. The regulations also provide 2 business days for the retailer to cure (i.e., post the sign) once notified of non-compliance.

7) Enforcement Statistics Update. BAR provided statistics on complaint trends for the July-December 2014 period, as follows. Engine Repair/Engine Performance (2,523 complaints)-33%; General Repair and Maintenance (1,245 complaints)-16%; Auto body (899 complaints)-12%; Transmission (730 complaints)-10%; Smog (838 complaints)-11%; Other (1,370 complaints)-18%.

8) Legislation and Regulations Update. BAR discussed the AB 1665 (BAR oversight of tire dealers) and veto and that BAR will begin conversations with industry stakeholders on the definition of minor services. Discussion occurred re: recently-enacted legislation supporting active military personnel and waiving BAR fees. BAR is working on the following regulations: Updating the Disciplinary Guidelines; Certified schools and Instructors, including recognizing certification for non-technical training; Mobile ARD Advertising; Written estimates and permitting transmission of estimates by email and fax and windshield replacement standard regulations.

Next BAR Advisory meeting: April 22, 2015