AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER (ALPR) PROPOSAL

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

BAR

Bureau of Automotive Repair

PHIL HEIRIGS

ENGINEERING AND RESEARCH BRANCH

BAR ADVISORY GROUP

JANUARY 28, 2021

OUTLINE

- What is an ALPR system?

- What are BAR's uses for ALPR data?

- What is BAR's ALPR policy?

AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER (ALPR)

- An ALPR system consists of:
  - A mobile or fixed camera that photographs a vehicle's license plate
  - Optical character recognition (OCR) software that converts the image into alpha-numeric characters of the license plate

- Typical ALPR uses include:
  - Electronic toll collection (e.g., Golden Gate Bridge, FasTrak toll roads and HOV lanes)
  - Enforcement of traffic laws and traffic control
  - Automated emissions testing

BAR'S USES FOR ALPR DATA

- BAR is currently unable to collect roadside data that is used to support the annual Smog Check Performance Report (SCPR).

- BAR has investigated alternative data sources for the 2021 SCPR, including emissions of on-road vehicles measured with Remote Sensing Devices (RSD).

- RSD systems also collect ALPR data, which are merged with DMV records to identify vehicle make, model, model year, etc. The data can also be used to identify Smog Check histories of tested vehicles.

- ALPR data will be used to improve the BAR Roadside Inspection Program by improving the process used to select random vehicles for testing that are needed for reporting.

BAR'S ALPR POLICY

- State law requires public agencies that collect ALPR data to have a formal policy to ensure procedures are in place to protect the data.

- BAR's ALPR Policy is available at www.bar.ca.gov.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Submit questions and/or comments to:

Phil Heirigs

Bureau of Automotive Repair

10949 N. Mather Boulevard

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Phone: 916-403-3015

Email: phil.heirigs@dca.ca.gov