

Vehicle Buy Back Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. Are diesel vehicles eligible, even though they have not been required to take Smog Checks?

A. Diesel vehicles are not excluded from the program.

Q. When will the program start accepting younger cars?

A. There is no set schedule for expanding the model years that are eligible and accept younger vehicles. The Air District makes such changes based on variables such as demand, funding available, and cost-effectiveness.

Q. Why does a vehicle have to be registered and not failing its required Smog Check if it's just going to be scrapped?

A. The Air District's Vehicle Buy Back Program must follow State regulations, which require the vehicle comply with applicable Smog Check requirements and require vehicles that are within 60 days of the next required Smog Check to take and pass Smog. The reason behind the State rules is that the goal of the program is to take off the road vehicles that are reasonably expected to keep operating for the next few years. Only vehicles that are roadworthy, registered, and not failing Smog Check can meet this requirement and earn the publicly-funded dollars.

Q. When will the program end?

A. As of April 7, 2010, the Air District plans to operate the program until an expanded State Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) comes on line, or December 31, 2010, whichever occurs earlier. Note that there is never a guarantee of funding or program operation, which is subject to change without notice. Visit www.smogcheck.ca.gov or call 1-800-952-5210 for details on the State CAP.

Q. How do I get paid?

A. It depends on the dismantler used. One company issues checks on the spot. Another mails checks, generally the next business day.

Q. What paperwork do I need to provide?

A. First, contact the dismantler, who will inform you of the requirements. Note the following. The DMV Registration History printout can be obtained only by the vehicle owner at a DMV office, and currently costs \$5. In general, it must cover 24 months; if you have owned the vehicle less than 24 months, discuss this with the dismantler. Any items noted as "prior suspense" on the printout count against the registration period. Make sure the DMV does not provide you a "junk" certificate, which will make your vehicle ineligible for the program. Again, contact an approved dismantler to learn more.