

1 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
2 KATHRYN ROBERTS, SBN 326693
PRINCIPAL DEPUTY DISTRICT COUNSEL
3 Email: kroberts@aqmd.gov
21865 Copley Drive
4 Diamond Bar, California 91765-0940
TEL: 909.396.3400 • FAX: 909.396.2961

5 Attorneys for Petitioner
6 South Coast Air Quality Management District

7
8 **BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD OF THE**
9 **SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

10
11 **In the Matter of**

12 SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY
13 MANAGEMENT DISTRICT,

14 Petitioner,

15 vs.

16 LALO ONSUREZ, individually and dba
FIXCARNOW, INC.,

17 [Facility ID No. 171918]

18 Respondents.

CASE No. 6286-1

[PROPOSED] FINDINGS AND
DECISION FOR AN ORDER
FOR ABATEMENT

District Rule 203(a)

Hearing Date: May 12, 2026
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Hearing Board
South Coast Air Quality
Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

19
20
21 **FINDINGS AND DECISION OF THE HEARING BOARD**

22 This petition for an Order for Abatement was heard on May 12, 2026, pursuant to notice
23 and in accordance with the provisions of California Health and Safety Code Section 40823 and
24 South Coast AQMD Rule 812. The following members of the Hearing Board were present: Micah
25 Ali, Chair; Robert Pearman, Vice Chair; Mohan Balagopalan; Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta; and Jerry
26 P. Abraham, MD, MPH, CMQ. Petitioner, Executive Officer of the South Coast Air Quality
27 Management District (“South Coast AQMD” or “Petitioner”) was represented by Kathryn Roberts,
28

1 Principal Deputy District Counsel. Respondents, FixCarNow, Inc. and Mr. Lalo Onsurez
2 (collectively “Respondents”) was represented by Mr. Lalo Onsurez, Manager. The public was
3 given an opportunity to testify. Evidence was received and the matter submitted. The Hearing
4 Board finds and decides:

5 1. Petitioner is a body corporate and politic established and existing pursuant to Health
6 and Safety Code §40000, *et seq.* and §40400, *et seq.*, and is the sole and exclusive local agency
7 with the responsibility for comprehensive air pollution control in the South Coast Basin.

8 2. Respondent FixCarNow, Inc. is a business incorporated under California law, with
9 an auto body and repair shop located at 1235 S. Eastern Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90022, with a
10 Facility ID No. of 171918 (the “Facility”). Respondent Lalo Onsurez is the Manager of
11 Respondent FixCarNow, Inc. and controls day-to-day operations at the Facility. As part of the
12 regular business operations at the Facility, Respondents operate a paint spray booth.

13 3. **District Rule 203(a)** requires that a permit be obtained from the South Coast
14 AQMD’s Executive Officer to operate or use any equipment which causes or controls the issuance
15 of air contaminants into the atmosphere.

16 4. Respondents operate a paint spray booth at the Facility, which causes the issuance
17 of air contaminants into the atmosphere. Respondents do not currently have an active permit to
18 operate issued by the South Coast AQMD to operate the paint spray booth, and thus Respondents
19 are currently in violation of District Rule 203(a).

20 5. The Facility was initially issued Permit to Operate No. G30665 (“Permit”) in April
21 of 2014 for an air pollution control system consisting of an automotive spray booth with exhaust
22 filters. The Permit became delinquent and subsequently became inactive in February of 2020 for
23 over 1 year of nonpayment of required annual permit renewal fees.

24 6. On May 13, 2022, a South Coast AQMD Air Quality Inspector conducted an
25 inspection of the Facility, including meeting with Respondent Mr. Onsurez. The Inspector
26 observed the paint spray booth in active operation at the time of the inspection, notwithstanding
27 that the facility’s permit application had expired. The Inspector discussed with Mr. Onsurez how
28 he could return to compliance by obtaining a valid permit, and provided Mr. Onsurez with a copy

1 of the application form and the contact information for the South Coast AQMD’s Permitting
2 Services, which could assist in completing the application and payment. The District Inspector
3 issued the Facility Notice of Violation (“NOV”) No. P76502.

4 7. On August 29, 2023, Respondents submitted a permit application for a new Permit
5 to Operate for the paint spray booth. However, while Respondents paid the Permit application fee,
6 the annual renewal was not paid and the application expired for non-payment in February of 2024.

7 8. On May 22, 2024, a South Coast AQMD Air Quality Inspector conducted an onsite
8 inspection and observed the spray booth installed and functional. The Inspector issued Notice to
9 Comply No. E55550 to Mr. Onsurez and the Facility, requesting Respondents to provide valid
10 proof of a permit to operate the spray booth, as well as past records of use of the spray booth. On
11 June 18, 2024, a follow-up onsite inspection was conducted to follow-up on the requirements of
12 Notice to Comply. The Inspector observed the spray booth in operation. Review of past records
13 showed that the paint spray booth had been utilized multiple times since the permit application
14 expired in February 2024, beginning March 11, 2024. Although the Respondent stated he paid the
15 permit processing fees, the South Coast AQMD Inspector explained that the annual renewal fee
16 had not been paid. NOV No. P67130 was issued on June 18, 2024, for operating equipment
17 without a valid permit to operate.

18 9. Numerous additional attempts from South Coast AQMD have failed to resolve the
19 ongoing violation. On September 24, 2025, a South Coast AQMD Air Quality Inspector again
20 conducted an inspection. The Inspector observed the facility’s employees applying tape to a
21 vehicle inside the spray booth to prep it for painting. The employee, Mr. Jesus Hernandez,
22 confirmed that the Facility was about to use the spray booth and that the Facility used the spray
23 booth on average once per week.

24 10. Respondents continue to operate its spray booth without obtaining a valid permit to
25 operate.

26 **CONCLUSIONS**

27 1. The Order for Abatement is not intended to be, nor would it act as, a variance.

28 2. Respondents, and each of them, are in violation of South Coast AQMD Rule 203(a).

1 the South Coast AQMD to issue Notices of Violation, to seek civil penalties or injunctive relief, or to
2 other administrative or legal relief;

3 6. The Hearing Board shall retain jurisdiction over this matter until May 31, 2027 or
4 until a modified permit to operate is issued, whichever occurs first.

5

6 Good cause appearing, it is so ordered.

7

For the Board: _____

8

9

Date Signed: _____

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28