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NEWS FROM: LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Media Alert

WHITTIER BOULEVARD AT ATLANTIC BOULEVARD RED LIGHT PHOTO ENFORCEMENT (RLPE) EQUIPMENT

Field testing of the traffic signals and Red Light Photo Enforcement (RLPE) equipment at the intersection of Whittier Boulevard at Atlantic Boulevard in East Los Angeles has determined that the operation of the photo enforcement system has resulted in the erroneous issuance of 3,018 citations to some motorists at this location. Of the 3,018 citations, 2,014 have resulted in convictions, 758 are still pending before the Los Angeles Superior Court and 246 have been dismissed.

On May 15, 2003, the Los Angeles Superior Court granted the County's request to issue an order setting aside the 2,014 convictions reached. Under the order, the County will refund the fines as a result of the conviction and the DMV will remove any points on the driver's record as a result of the conviction. Also, the County will notify drivers how they can make claims for damages above and beyond the amount of the fine refunded. This notice will be in English and Spanish and include blank claims forms.

The District Attorney's office will move the Los Angeles Superior Court to dismiss the 758 citations which are still outstanding before the Court.

Since August 2000, the County of Los Angeles has managed the RLPE Program at five signalized intersections in unincorporated County areas, including Whittier Boulevard at Atlantic Boulevard. The objectives of the RLPE Program include reducing and eliminating accidents caused by red-light running and overall reduction of incidences of red-light running. The program has effectively reduced the number of traffic accidents at the locations served by the RLPE cameras.

The County of Los Angeles, the County's contract vendor who operates the system, and the California Highway Patrol tested the RLPE system at Whittier and Atlantic in response to the discovery of an inconsistency between the traffic signal

yellow time depicted on photo enforcement photographs and the actual yellow time established for the intersection. The County has identified the cause of the error and made the necessary changes to the system to correct the error. The County has confirmed that the RLPE equipment at the following remaining four locations has operated properly throughout the duration of the program:

- I. Arrow Highway at Glendora Avenue
- II. Colima Road at Batson Avenue
- III. Hacienda Boulevard at la Monde Street
- IV. Wlshire Boulevard at Sepulveda Boulevard

To protect against future occurrences of RLPE malfunctions, the County has established enhanced procedures for monitoring the functionality of photo enforcement equipment as part of their preventative maintenance.

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