

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 01-0046

RELEASE NUMBER

March 9, 2011

RELEASE DATE

Joyce E. Dudley

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Arnis Tolks, Senior Deputy District Attorney

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

March 9, 2011

Re: *People v. Joaquin Garcia Morales*

After an investigation by the California Highway Patrol, Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce Dudley, in consultation with Stephen Wagner, a California District Attorneys Association prosecutor working pursuant to a grant administered by the Office of Traffic Safety, has decided to file three counts of felony Vehicular Manslaughter pursuant to Penal Code section 192 (c) (1) against Joaquin Garcia Morales. Mr. Morales has been notified to appear for arraignment on these charges on March 14, 2011. Stephen Wagner will be joining Senior Deputy District Attorney Arnie Tolks in the prosecution of this case.

According to law enforcement reports authored by the California Highway Patrol, under the local direction of Captain Jeff Sgobba, the following occurred on August 24, 2010: 61 year old Joaquin Garcia Morales, a California Class A commercial truck driver, left Bee Rock Quarry shortly after 6:00 a.m. and traveled eastbound on SR-154 toward Santa Barbara.

As he approached the intersection of SR-154 and State Street, Mr. Morales failed to stop his vehicle, which then traversed the intersection and entered the private parking lot of 4123 State Street, where it ultimately struck a residential home. Inside that home were 22 year old Leon Leonel, 26 year old Lorena Tellez Pacheco, and 8 year old Jaciel Tellez. All three died as a result of this collision.

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