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PRESS RELEASE

MORALES CHARGED IN DROWNING DEATH

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John Morales was arrested today on two charges of felony child endangerment, one special enhancement of willful harm or injury resulting in the death of a child and a special allegation of committing a crime while out on bail for other felony charges. The charges stem from the drowning death of Morales' 11 year old daughter.

On July 18, 2010 Morales took his 11 year old daughter and her 12 year old friend on a rafting trip down Clear Creek in a two person, 400 pound capacity inflatable kayak. The total weight of the three was over 500 pounds. The only person in the inflatable kayak wearing a life vest was the 12 year old girl who survived the raft trip. Morales' 11 year old daughter was not wearing a life vest. California law requires that any child under age 13 must wear a flotation device while on the water.

On Clear Creek, there is an area called the Gorge which is characterized by a very narrow gorge and severe rapids. When Morales arrived at the Gorge area, individuals on the side of the creek repeatedly yelled to Morales that he should not proceed into the gorge as the rapids were too rough and that someone would be seriously hurt. Despite these repeated warnings, Morales pumped his fist into the air and said "Yeah, that's what we're looking for." The two girls told Morales that they were scared and did not want to go into the Gorge. Morales guided the inflatable kayak into the Gorge with the two girls anyway. The individuals who had warned Morales saw this happening and ran along the creek, and continued to yell for Morales to stop.

When the inflatable kayak entered the white water, a witness states that Morales jumped out of the inflatable kayak and swam to the shore while the kayak continued into the rapids with the 2 girls. After entering the rapids the inflatable kayak capsized and the two girls were thrown into the water. The 12 year old was able to grab onto a rock down stream and was eventually lifted out of the gorge via helicopter.

After Morales' daughter went under the water, the individuals who had warned Morales jumped into the rapids and were able to pull her submerged body out of 10 to 12 feet of water to the shore. CPR was administered on the child to no avail and she was pronounced dead at the hospital.

According to witnesses, Morales had been drinking during the incident.

Morales is charged with separate felony counts of Child Endangerment as to each of the children that were in the inflatable kayak based on his placing the children in a place of danger. The enhancement relates to the resulting death of Lily Morales. In addition, Morales is charged with an allegation that he committed this crime while out on bail in another felony case. In that case, Morales is charged with felony Driving under the Influence of alcohol based on Morales having been previously convicted of 3 DUI's within the last 10 years. The felony DUI stems from a November 3, 2009 arrest. The case is currently pending in court awaiting a preliminary hearing.

Morales is currently in custody on \$500,000 bail. His is scheduled for arraignment at 1:30 p.m. today. Morales faces a maximum of 14 years in prison if convicted of all charges in both felony cases.