THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: December 25, 2007 (Tuesday)
Time: 1530 Hours

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POLICE INVESTIGATE OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING ON FREEWAY

San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit detectives are investigating the circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting in South Bay this morning.

At approximately 7:00 a.m., a marked Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department patrol vehicle was stolen from the 7900 block of Compton Avenue, in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. At 8:38 a.m., the San Diego Sheriff's Department received a report of a male with a marked LASD vehicle at a gas station in Leucadia. Information about the stolen vehicle, and the fact the vehicle contained ammunition and a shotgun, was broadcast to all officers for safety purposes. At 8:47 a.m., a citizen called SDPD Communications to report a black and white police vehicle swerving in the lanes of southbound I-5 at Main Street. At 8:58 a.m., a citizen reported seeing the vehicle in a parking lot on Palm Avenue just west of I-805. The vehicle was unoccupied, but as California Highway Patrol officers approached it, the suspect jumped back inside and sped off.

Units from the Highway Patrol and the San Diego Police Department chased the suspect, who failed to yield to lights and siren. The suspect ran several red lights as he fled west on Palm Avenue. The suspect entered southbound I-5 from Palm Avenue and pulled to the center median. As officers pulled behind him, the suspect exited the vehicle and briefly paced by the driver's door of the LASD vehicle. The suspect did not comply with officers' commands, and he went back into the LASD vehicle and began to pull on a shotgun secured between the front seats. Believing he would fire at them if he was successful at removing the shotgun, two officers (one from the CHP, one from SDPD) fired at the suspect. The suspect was struck by the gunfire and was taken into custody.

The suspect, identified as Regino Aguilar, 26, was transported to a hospital for treatment of injuries that are not considered life-threatening. Aguilar will be guarded at the hospital until his release and booking into County Jail for auto theft, felony evading, and assault.

The San Diego Police Officer involved in the shooting is a 2 ½ year veteran of the department. The CHP Officer involved in the shooting is a 9 ½ year veteran of the Highway Patrol.

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