



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PROTESTERS ARRESTED AFTER CLOSING SAN MATEO BRIDGE

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CA – On January 19, 2015 at approximately 4:50 PM, the California Highway Patrol received reports of protesters blocking both directions of SR-92 at the San Mateo Bridge, near the high-rise. Preliminary reports indicated that several vehicles had stopped on the bridge and dropped off approximately sixty to seventy individuals. These protesters proceeded to block both lanes of traffic near the high-rise portion of the San Mateo Bridge.

Thanks to a close partnership with the community and our media partners, the CHP had received several reports indicating the possibility of protests which intended to block the San Mateo Bridge today. In anticipation of these protests, officers from the CHP Golden Gate Division Special Response Team, as well as other CHP offices across the Bay Area, were able to stage in the area and respond quickly. Within minutes, officers arrived on scene and issued an order to disperse. Those who did not clear the traffic lanes were peacefully taken into custody. A total of 68 individuals were arrested for violations of 647c PC and 420 PC. These individuals were transported to the CHP Redwood City Area Office for processing. A comprehensive report of the incident will be submitted to the San Mateo County District Attorney for the purposes of filing charges.

All lanes of traffic were reopened at approximately 6:50 PM. The traffic impact of this incident primarily affected the westbound direction of SR-92, causing delays of up to an hour for those motorists trapped behind the protest. The protest was a contributing factor in several traffic collisions, causing property damage and minor injury. Fortunately, no serious injury or loss of life took place during this incident.

The CHP would like to remind the public that our freeway system is no place for protests. Motorists do not expect pedestrians to be present in lanes of traffic, and such actions could lead to collisions between those pedestrians and the vehicles on the freeway. Unfortunately, collisions involving pedestrians often end with major injuries or fatalities. We thank those that were affected by this incident for their patience and cooperation.

END



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