



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CITY ATTORNEY SECURES CONVICTION, PENALTIES FOR DEVELOPER WHO DAMAGED PROTECTED TREES NEAR GRIFFITH PARK

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo today announced his Office's Environmental Protection Unit has secured a conviction against a Los Angeles Developer found cutting down protected trees near Griffith Park.

Song Chol Han, a.k.a. Jesse Han, 39, president of K2 Development, pled no contest to one count of violating Los Angeles' Protected Tree Ordinance. Commissioner Michael Garcia sentenced Han to three years probation and 20 days of CalTrans service. In addition, Han must donate \$7,500 to Tree People, a non-profit organization dedicated to planting and caring for trees on school campuses, city streets, parks and mountains within Los Angeles.

Charges against Han stem from a June 23, 2006 incident at the site of four proposed residential lots on Live Oak Drive in Los Angeles that contained 17 protected native trees. On the date of the incident, tree trimmers hired by Han cut down two Coast Live Oak and Four Southern California Black Walnut trees on the proposed building site before neighbors were able to intervene and persuade them to stop.

At the time the protected trees were cut down, Han was aware an environmental review of the proposed development was still pending before the City of Los Angeles' Department of Building and Safety based on the presence of protected native trees on site.

After an exhaustive investigative report was completed by neighbors, the Los Angeles Department of Public Works forwarded the case to City Attorney Delgadillo's Criminal and Special Litigation Division for prosecution by Deputy City Attorney Michelle Lyman.

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