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L.A. CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO FILES CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST OWNER OF NEGLECTED VALLEY TRAILER PARK

*Criminal Complaint Alleges Residents Forced to Drink Out of
Garden Hose and Live in Hazardous Conditions*

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo today announced his Safe Neighborhoods Division has filed criminal charges against two corporations and their executives for failing to maintain safe and habitable conditions at a Van Nuys trailer park.

Hedamar Development, Inc, President Hedy Magna and Vice President Mark Magna, as well as Valley MHP, LLC, were each charged with six criminal counts for unsafe electrical equipment and wiring; unsafe plumbing in the laundry facility; failure to provide each lot with a drinking water outlet; permitting contamination of drinking water; and failing to connect units to outlet with approved gas connectors. Each count carries a maximum penalty of 30 days in jail and/or a \$400 fine.

The owner of the property could face suspension or revocation of its permit to operate a trailer park facility and may face additional civil penalties from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

The Woodley Trailer Lodge is a 26 space facility built in 1926. Inspectors with the HCD first received complaints in November 2007 and found dilapidated and missing electrical service equipment and exposed live conductors in 25 spaces. The laundry room had been demolished, leaving open drains and a lack of laundry facilities for residents. In addition, residents were forced to use a garden hose for drinking water in 25 spaces.

Violations were noted and the owner of the property required to immediately correct all hazardous conditions. On December 17 and December 28, 2007 the park was re-inspected noting little progress in addressing the violations.

Results of the investigation were forwarded to City Attorney Delgadillo's Safe Neighborhoods Division for prosecution by Deputy City Attorney Tamar Galatzan.

Arraignment is scheduled for March 3 in Department 101 of the Van Nuys Superior Court.