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**\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\***

Nov. 30, 2012

**CITY ATTORNEY FILES CHARGES AGAINST OIL COMPANY FOR SPILL**

*Harbor City's Brea Canon Oil, Co. has a history of oil spill violations*

**Los Angeles** – The City Attorney's Office has filed criminal charges against Brea Canon Oil, Co. (BCO) for a 245 gallon crude oil and water spill in December 2011. BCO President Andrew Allan Parker and two other BCO executives, Reinaldo Jose Javier and Jonathan Paul Kendig, were also named in the criminal complaint.

"We must continue to aggressively protect our environment, especially from those threats that are clearly preventable," said Los Angeles City Attorney Carmen Trutanich. "As good stewards of our environment, we have an unwavering obligation to hold all violators of our laws accountable."

In the predawn hours of Dec. 2, 2011, a BCO underground pipeline began to leak beneath a Frampton Ave., parking lot. The leak surfaced and spread across the parking lot, moved through two storm drains and into a Los Angeles County flood channel, traveling more than 1,200 feet, before it was contained.

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) estimated that at least 35 gallons of crude oil and an additional 210 gallons of "produced water," which is extremely salty and harmful to wildlife, were released from the leaking pipeline. Although environmental damage was minimal, the impact could have been severe. The flood channel is a known habitat for several species of birds and a direct tributary to the wetland and wildlife habitats of Canada de Palos Verdes Creek and Machado Lake.

BCO has a history of pipeline spill violations, including incidents in October 2005, March 2010 and June 2010. On Oct. 15, 2005, 100 gallons of crude oil and produced water were released; on March 4, 2010, 120 gallons of crude oil and water was released; and on June 29, 2010, 35 gallons of crude oil was released, all from BCO pipelines.

The City Attorney worked with DFG on the investigation of this matter. The City Attorney's Office alleges that BCO violated the California Fish and Game Code, the California Health and Safety Code and the California Water Code. More specifically, the complaint charges BCO and the three defendants with unlawful discharge of crude oil into state waters, unlawful discharge of contaminated water into state waters, negligent discharge into state waters and failure to report the incident immediately to appropriate authorities.