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FATAL VEHICLE ACCIDENT

Sheriff's Case# 19-00110

PRESS RELEASE

The Sierra County Sheriff's Office and the Quincy Office of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) responded to a multiple vehicle accident on State Route - 49/89 south of Sattley, CA on January 24, 2019, at approximately 0715 hours.

The preliminary investigation revealed that a 17-year-old Beckwourth, CA resident was driving a Chevrolet pickup with his mother as a passenger, and pulling a horse trailer loaded with three horses. The truck and trailer were traveling southbound on State Route - 49/89, just south of Westside Road (Sattley). Ruben Villa-Arroyo, of Reno, Nevada, was driving a Freightliner box truck northbound State Route – 49/89. The road surface was icy, and a dense layer of fog reduced visibility.

The driver of the Chevrolet pickup lost control of the horse trailer, which collided with the Freightliner. Mr. Villa-Arroyo sustained fatal injuries as a result of the collision and was pronounced deceased at the scene by the Sierra County Sheriff's Office. All three horses inside the trailer died as a result of the impact. The driver and passenger in the Chevrolet were not injured, remained at the scene, and have been cooperating with law enforcement.

The accident is still under investigation by the Quincy Office of the California Highway Patrol, and the Sierra County Sheriff's Office is conducting the coroner investigation.

We want to thank all the agencies who assisted during this incident; California Highway Patrol, California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), Sierra County Fire Protection District, City of Loyalton Fire Department, Sierra City Fire Department, Eastern Plumas Ambulance and the numerous people who stopped and helped before first responders arrived.

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