FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mussel Rock Beach Park, Daly City, California

On Monday May 12, 2014, at approximately 2030 hours, CHP Helicopter 32 (H-32) monitored North San Mateo County Fire Department broadcast a “man down” call on Mussel Rock Beach just north of Pacifica. H-32 responded to the area and quickly located the 31 year old San Francisco man lying in the surf. H-32 landed on the beach and the crew contacted the man in the surf and quickly removed him from the water. The man was obviously in distress and hypothermic. The crew of H-32 loaded the man into the helicopter for a short flight to an upper landing zone above the beach where he was transferred to the care of a ground ambulance for treatment and transport to a local emergency room. Due to the rugged terrain and boulders between the beach and the upper parking lot, no vehicles could have accessed the man on the beach and it would have been extremely difficult and hazardous to both Fire Department personnel, as well as the victim, to be moving up the rocky cliff in the dark. The entire rescue took approximately 10 minutes.

The California Highway Patrol Golden Gate Division Air Operations unit, based at the Napa County Airport, operates four aircraft (two airplanes and two helicopters) which patrol approximately 6,923 square miles that incorporates a residential population of more than 7 million people. The helicopter is routinely staffed with a CHP Officer/Pilot and a CHP Officer/Paramedic. The helicopter is equipped with a rescue hoist that has 165 feet of rescue cable that can lift patients and/or rescuers, that can weigh up to 450 pounds, into the helicopter.

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