FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rumsey, Yolo County, California
On Thursday, August 7th, 2014, at approximately 1540 hours, CHP Helicopter 30 (H-30) received a request from Yolo County Sheriff's Department for assistance with the search and rescue of a lost mountain biker near Rumsey in rural Yolo County. H-30 responded from the Napa County Airport with a crew of two (Pilot Scott Ellison, Flight Officer/Paramedic Ben Schmidt). It was 95-100 degrees in the area and the biker had notified 911 he had been without water for 7 hours. H-30 quickly located the biker waving his arms in the air, without his bike, at the top of a ridgeline many miles from the trailhead. H-30 landed offshore within a quarter of a mile of the biker and brought him to the helicopter. The biker said that he left his bike further back on the trail and also had to leave his dog "Ruby". He related it was a choice he had to make for survival between his dog and himself because the dog was slowing him down and he had to seek help. H-30 flew the biker to a nearby landing zone and transferred him to Yolo County emergency personnel. H-30 went back to the area to search for the dog. H-30 landed at the same off-site location on the ridgeline and Officer Schmidt went searching for the dog. Officer Schmidt located the deceased dog approximately 1 mile down the trail. Officer Schmidt buried the dog and then hiked the mountain bike back to the helicopter. H-30 flew the bike back to the landing zone, gave it to the mountain biker, and brought the dog’s collar to him in hopes it would help provide closure. It would have taken several hours for emergency personnel to hike in, locate and retrieve this mountain biker. The entire rescue took the crew of H-30 approximately twenty 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 cable that can lift patients and/or rescuers, with a cumulative weight up to 450 pounds.

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