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Media Release

Stolen Vehicle Pursuit on Interstate 80 in Reno Terminates Near Floriston, California

On Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at approximately 10:38 pm, a Nevada Highway Patrol Trooper attempted to stop a silver Toyota 4-door sedan on eastbound Interstate 80 near the Virginia Street interchange for a traffic violation. The lone driver of the sedan failed to yield to the emergency vehicle's lights and siren and continued to travel east at a very high rate of speed. It was learned moments later the vehicle was reported stolen and other troopers in the area were alerted to the evolving developments.

The driver exited the freeway at the Pyramid Way interchange and led troopers on a brief chase on Pyramid Way, Oddie Blvd, 21st Street, H Street, and Prater Way in Sparks, before entering Interstate 80 again where the pursuit continued west. The driver reached speeds in excess of 110 miles per hour on the freeway and the chase continued to the East Verdi area where the fleeing driver exited the freeway and managed to make an improper left turn at the end of the off ramp. The errant driver re-entered Interstate 80 via the eastbound Verdi on ramp as the chase continued toward Reno again. The fleeing vehicle continued east and exited at the Keystone Avenue interchange where the driver turned the chase around and continued west once more. The pursuit continued west on Interstate 80 and the fleeing vehicle continued into California.

Although several attempts were made to terminate the pursuit in Nevada with the use of "stop sticks" or portable road spikes, it was difficult to isolate and effectively spike the target vehicle based upon the high speeds involved and other motorists sharing the freeway in close proximity to the fleeing vehicle. One of those attempts happened near Robb Drive which resulted in another motorist very near the target vehicle to drive over the "stop stick" device. The victim-motorist stopped his vehicle on the right shoulder moments later and was assisted by another trooper who called for a tow truck for the disabled vehicle and then provided a ride for the motorist to his intended destination.

The Toyota was successfully “spiked” at approximately 11:00 pm near Farad by officers from the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Despite having at least two deflated tires, the vehicle continued west until it finally stopped near the Floriston interchange. The driver, identified as **21-year-old Kody Nicholas Strong of Sparks**, was taken into custody by the CHP officers and transported to the Nevada County Sheriff’s Office Detention Facility and booked for the violations committed in California.

As for the criminal charges in Nevada related to the event, a warrant request for numerous traffic-related and felony eluding charges will be completed and submitted by the Nevada Highway Patrol to the Washoe County District Attorney’s Office for review.

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