

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

EIGHT DEFENDANTS SENTENCED FOR HIGHWAY 1 PROTEST

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that the eight protestors who shut down part of Highway 1 on March 28 were sentenced to three years of probation and 40 days in the Monterey County Jail.

Monterey Superior Court Judge Stephanie Hulsey imposed identical sentences on Michael Fredrickson, age 26, of Monterey; Trinidad Gonzalez, age 22, of Marina; Maxwell Green, age 35, of Monterey; Colette Marlin-Winter, age 23, of Carmel; Courtney Thomas, age 24, of Los Angeles; Peter Xiong, age 21, of Marina; Alexandra Walling, age 25, of Seaside; and Benjamin Wilson, age 26, of Seaside. The eight defendants had pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor count of refusing to disperse from the scene of an unlawful assembly.

The eight defendants were arrested by the Monterey Police Department after the defendants joined together to block all lanes of southbound Highway 1 in the early afternoon on March 28, 2015. Despite being warned about the danger to their own safety and the safety of drivers on the highway, the defendants walked onto the highway and blocked traffic while holding signs and chanting. All eight defendants refused multiple lawful orders by police officers to leave the area immediately. Each was given the opportunity to avoid arrest by leaving the highway, and refused.

As a result of the defendants' actions, traffic was delayed for approximately 45 minutes and the backed-up traffic resulted in at least one collision.

Prior to imposing the sentence, Judge Hulsey reminded the defendants that they were not being punished for the content of their speech, but for the unlawful and dangerous manner in which the protest was carried out.

All defendants are eligible to serve their jail sentence through the Sheriff's Department work alternative program.