

*Jackie Lacey*  
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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Wrong Way Driver Charged with Murder**

A motorist has been charged with murder after a fatal wrong way crash on the 405 Freeway in West Los Angeles last weekend, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Marco Abrego aka Antonio Marco Abrego (dob 3/18/77) of Northridge faces one felony count each of murder, gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage causing injury.

Case SA102218 includes allegations of causing great bodily injury and/or death and refusing to submit to a chemical test.

Abrego pleaded not guilty to the charges yesterday and is scheduled to return on March 13 in Department W31 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Airport Branch.

On February 16, the defendant allegedly drove southbound for approximately three miles in the northbound carpool lane of the 405 Freeway, colliding head-on with another car and killing its driver, Joey Allen, 43. The driver of a third vehicle involved in the collision also was injured, prosecutors said.

Bail is set at \$2.1 million. Abrego faces a possible maximum sentence of 15 years to life in state prison if convicted as charged.

The case remains under investigation by the California Highway Patrol, West Los Angeles Station.

### **About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.