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## DA'S OFFICE CHARGES BAY AREA FATHER AND DAUGHTER IN 60-COUNT CRIMINAL CASE INVOLVING WALK-IN BATHTUBS

**RIVERSIDE** – A father and daughter have been arrested in the Bay Area in connection with a 60-count criminal case filed by the Riverside County District Attorney's Office involving misrepresentations made by a walk-in bathtub company to dozens of elderly victims resulting in monetary losses to victims across the state of more than \$360,000.

Raj Kamal Suri, DOB: 10-10-49, was arrested about 4 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015, in Pleasanton, in Alameda County.; and his daughter, Tori Bhavna Suri, DOB: 7-5-74, was arrested about 45 minutes later in Richmond, in Contra Costa County. Both defendants are from Danville, Calif.

The Riverside County DA's Office worked with the Contra Costa County DA's Office and the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) to conduct an investigation into allegations consumers made against Richmond-based GreenworksUS regarding possible misrepresentations and unfair business practices in the sales of "Safeguard Tubs." The company also has a distribution center in Corona.

"Consumers must be protected against unscrupulous sales people and unlicensed contractors," said Riverside County District Attorney Mike Hestrin.

"These arrests are an important step in stopping a company whose sole purpose was to victimize unsuspecting or vulnerable consumers," said CSLB Registrar Cindi Christenson. "This is the result of hundreds, if not thousands, of hours spent by dedicated investigators around California demonstrating how local and state agencies can work closely together to protect the public."

In this case, it is alleged that GreenworksUS sales people entered the homes of the victims to commit a felony of theft by false pretense. Based on the evidence in this case, elderly victims were targeted by the company and sales people were instructed to use various misrepresentations to complete a sale. Several of the victims listed in the criminal complaint reside in Riverside County.

It is also alleged that the defendants filed documents under penalty of perjury containing false information with government agencies.

The charges filed against the two defendants include burglary with enhancements related to elderly victims, theft from an elder or dependent adult, conspiracy, money laundering, and perjury. There also is an aggravated white-collar crime enhancement. If convicted as currently charged, each defendant could face about 70 years in prison.

The case, RIF1500016, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Homan Hosseinioun and Deputy District Attorney Lauren Dossey of the DA's Consumer Fraud Unit.