



OFFICE OF THE
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 25, 2005

Re: **Golden West Nuts, Inc.**

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA - - District Attorney James Brazelton announced that felony and misdemeanor charges were filed March 9, 2005, against Golden West Nuts, Inc., of Ripon, Jon Hoff, one of the corporation's principles, and John Becerra, a Golden West Nut labor foreman, alleging exposure of a hazardous dose of methyl bromide to an employee. The allegations against Hoff and Becerra also include failure to provide good working equipment, safety equipment, appropriate training and other violations leading to serious bodily injury. Defendant John Becerra is further charged with one felony count of submitting false documents. The charges were filed under California's Labor Code and Food and Agriculture Code. The individual defendants face state prison sentences and fines over \$250,000.

The arraignment of the defendants is scheduled for March 30, 2005, at 1:30 p.m., in the Stanislaus County Superior Court. Circuit Prosecutors from the California District Attorneys Association's Environmental Circuit Prosecutor Project are assisting with the prosecution of the case.