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ELK GROVE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — United States Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner announced today that LUIS FELIPE LA COTERA, 43, of Elk Grove, pleaded guilty on Friday, March 12, 2010 to receipt of child pornography before United States District Judge Morrison C. England Jr.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Sacramento Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. The Sacramento ICAC is a federally funded task force managed by the Sacramento Sheriff's Department and composed of agents from federal, state, and local agencies. The purpose of the Sacramento ICAC is to investigate online child exploitation crimes, including child pornography, enticement, and sex trafficking.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Reardon, who is prosecuting the case, between November 26, 2007, and December 16, 2008, LA COTERA used an Internet file-sharing program to search and download approximately 140 videos and 35 images of child pornography to his computer.

When interviewed by law enforcement, LA COTERA initially denied having any knowledge about child pornography. After being confronted with evidence that videos and images of the sexual exploitation of children had been found on his computer, he admitted to searching the Internet for videos and images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. LA COTERA stated that he used Limewire to search for both adult and child pornography and that he preferred videos showing "12 to 13-year-old girls engaged in sex." He knew that the children in the videos were minors and admitted to becoming sexually aroused by the videos and images of children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The defendant described such videos and images as "normal" pornography.

LA COTERA is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge England on May 27, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. He faces a sentence of no less than five years and up to 20 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, and a lifetime of supervised release. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables.

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