BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MEDIA RELEASE

PERRY L. RENIFF
SHERIFF-CORONER

DATE: 03-31-09

RELEASED BY: Sgt A. Borgman

CONTACT #: 538-7322

On 03-26-09 Union Pacific Railroad reported a theft of solar panels and batteries from the railroad in the Feather River Canyon near Pulga, CA. Items taken included 16 large batteries specifically made and designed for use on the railway systems, and 2 arrays of solar panels totaling 8 solar panels. The removal of this equipment caused an interruption in the communication and control systems of the railroad, jeopardizing the safe passage of trains through this critical rail link. Fortunately, Union Pacific was able to isolate the problem before any accidents occurred.

Due to the size of the equipment stolen and the methods used, it is believed that multiple suspects were involved. The suspects were in the area of the theft on more than one occasion due to the organization required based on the inaccessibility of the location.

The Butte County Sheriff's Office is seeking any information that might lead to identifying the responsible persons. Anyone that may have seen a vehicle with an ATV in it or on a trailer leaving the area of Camp Creek Rd and Pulga Rd off of highway 70 in the early morning hours of 03-26-09 is asked to contact Deputy J. Freeman at the Butte County Sheriff's Office by calling 538-7321 and selecting "1" to report a non-emergency crime.

The loss of property to Union Pacific Railroad is estimated at approximately $20,000. Photographs of matching solar panels and batteries are attached to the press release email.