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For immediate release

'Region One' to Get Second R44 Police Helicopter

Torrance, CA — The Air Support Division for the cities of El Monte, Baldwin Park, and Montebello, California has just received confirmation that city officials have approved the purchase of a second R44 Police Helicopter.

The multi-city unit started with a two-seat R22 helicopter several years ago during the Los Angeles riots. "We were the first department to use an R22 for law enforcement, because of the Robinson's cost-efficiency," reports Sgt. Gary Haidet. "We now use an R44 seven days a week, six hours a day. We perform the same missions as other agencies who operate more expensive helicopters, but at less than half the cost."

Adding the second aircraft will allow the unit to provide emergency response to other cities and to expand the services it already provides to 'Region One.' It will also provide a backup aircraft for the Air Support unit when its current R44 Police Helicopter, which is rapidly approaching its 4400-hour TBO, goes to the Robinson factory for overhaul.

Region One's airborne law enforcement unit employs only a part-time mechanic for maintenance of its R44, and according to Sgt. Haidet, "the helicopter is virtually never down for maintenance. The R44 has really enhanced our capabilities to provide our citizens and officers with an added measure of safety on a daily basis."

Region One uses its R44 for a wide range of law enforcement activities, including searching for lost or missing children, locating missing aircraft and/or vehicles, drug interdiction and surveillance, field searches and escapes, and to assist ground units in the event of dangerous high-speed vehicle or foot pursuits.

The unit typically flies about 100 hours each month and responds to over 200 radio calls. Seventy-five percent of the time, the R44 is first on the scene, and in many instances, the calls are directly related to the safety of officers on the ground.

Robinson Helicopter Company is the world's leading manufacturer of civil helicopters and builds the two-seat Model R22 and the four-seat Model R44. Robinson helicopters are used throughout the world for a variety of private, business and commercial operations. For more information about Robinson, visit on-line at <http://www.robinsonheli.com>.

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