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NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney Reminds About Price Gouging

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that the prohibition against price gouging stemming from the Thomas Fire is still in effect and was extended to December 2018. Price gouging is a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a fine of up to \$10,000. Violators may also be subject to civil enforcement actions and penalties up to \$5,000 per violation, plus restitution.

Businesses and persons may not sell or offer to sell consumer food items, goods or services used for emergency clean up, emergency supplies, medical supplies, building materials, housing, transportation, freight, storage services, gasoline and other motor fuels for more than 10 percent higher than the price immediately before the original disaster declaration. Housing is defined as any rental housing with an initial lease term of no longer than one year. The prohibition against price gouging extends to all of Ventura County.

Suspected price gouging can be reported by calling the District Attorney's Office at 805-662-1737.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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