


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

## Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom](#) (web)

[CEO Hotline](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance](#)  
(web)

[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/  
Library](#)
[Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)

[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Retirement  
Round-up](#)

## Metro Info

[Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)

[Org Chart](#) (pdf)

[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

## Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk  
at 2-4357

[E-Mail Webmaster](#)

## L.A. Man Charged With 8 Vandalism Counts Totaling \$35,000

- Transit Services Bureau cracking down on tagging

By ELIZABETH A. CRAIGG

(Aug. 27, 2004) A Los Angeles man has been charged with eight felony counts of vandalism that caused more than \$35,000 damage to the Metro Buses and to Metro Gold Line and Red Line trains.

David Andres, 22, has confessed to tagging the Metro vehicles with his graffiti moniker, "PORE'S." He was arrested July 15 in Montebello for other charges.

Members of the Transit Services Bureau's Special Problems Unit, met him at the jail to question his involvement with the damage done to Metro vehicles.

"When questioned, most taggers confess to the crime", says Sheriff's Deputy Loren Worthington of the SPU's Westside/Central unit.

### Crackdown on taggers

The Transit Services Bureau is cracking down on taggers.

Deputy Larry Ware quotes a tagger website, "The graffiti scene is declining." Ware and Worthington see this as proof of the anti-vandalism team's effectiveness.

Ware does express concern that "surrounding areas are not putting the same effort into catching these criminals, so when they are caught here, they just go somewhere else."

The Internet is one resource taggers use to tell each other where they can tag without getting caught.

### 'Decline in damage'

"Word is out that more people are being busted and are telling on each other, which has caused a decline in damage," says Worthington.

The SPU is conducting a vandalism investigation that could be the biggest in Metro history, with damage estimated to total in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Convicted taggers can be sentenced to work camp or jail time, community service, or pay full restitution of damages.

There are ten officers in the Special Problems Unit, two per Service Sector. They collect evidence by going along bus routes and taking photos of graffiti, then proceeding by investigating the most reoccurring tags.

