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Transit Services Bureau officers reporting finding these tagging tools in the residence of a 19-year old arrested for causing \$82,000 damage to Metro trains, buses and stations. LASD Photo



19-Year-Old Suspect Held on \$50,000 Bail for \$86,000 Tagging Damage

- LA Resident Targeted Blue Line, Buses and Stations

By Ned Racine

(August 23, 2007) A 19-year-old male Los Angeles resident has been arrested by Transit Services Bureau (TSB) deputies on suspicion of causing \$86,000 in vandalism to Blue Line trains, buses and stations, the highest total attributed to any tagger the TSB has arrested.

The TSB's Special Problems Unit conducted a 2-1/2-month investigation, resulting in the August 15 arrest of Jesus Escobar on suspicion of graffiti vandalism, according to Sheriff's Sgt. Augie Pando.

Metro estimated the cost of the vandalism as \$76,000 for the Blue Line and \$10,000 for buses.

After his arrest, Escobar admitted to vandalizing the buses and trains and provided the deputies with a signed confession, along with an apology to Metro, according to Sgt. Pando. Escobar is being held at the Century Regional Detention Facility in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

Deputies served a search warrant on a residence in the 9100 block of Bandera Street and discovered scribing tools, gummed labels (know as

"slap tags"), cans of paint and samples of Escobar's work, Sgt. Pando reported. Escobar, who used the moniker of SHOTSER or SHOTZ, is believed to be a member of the BRUC (Been Rocking Your City) tagging crew.

The suspect assumed he was being arrested on a narcotics warrant, noted Sgt. Pando, and told the deputies he was growing a small amount of marijuana in his back yard. Deputies seized the plant. Narcotics charges were later filed against Escobar.