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Sheriff's
Special
Problems
Unit deputies
confiscated
tagger
paraphernalia
after
arresting
Skotes April
16.

Sheriff's Deputies arrest Gold Line tagging suspect

(April 21, 2009) A 24-year-old Los Angeles man accused of causing \$18,000 in damages to the Metro Gold Line has been arrested and charged with felony vandalism, said Los Angeles Sheriff's Deputy Sgt. Augie Pando.

Ian Skotes was arrested April 16 in his home by the Transit Services Special Problems Unit Deputy Rick Duarte with the assistance of other unit members, Pando said.

Investigators found large amounts of tagging paraphernalia including several spray paint cans, markers, and items with the suspect's moniker on them during the arrest.

According to Pando, Skotes was linked to a large tag or mural found on the Gold Line tracks recently, and he may also be linked to another tagging incident.

Skotes was identified as the same person arrested months ago by Duarte for possession of vandalism tools.

During that earlier arrest, Skotes apparently told investigators his "tag" was "SLAY," Pando said. Some of the items recovered during his recent arrest were marked with the alias.

Investigators are also trying to determine if Skotes is connected to another vandalism incident in which the CHP responded to a freeway call and found Skotes' car. While they impounded his car at the time, police believe Skotes may have fled the scene during the incident.

--from Laura Kloth

