1	MICHAEL W. BARRETT, CITY ATTORNEY (SBN 155968) DAVID C. JONES, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY (SBN 129881) NAPA CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE @cityofnapa.org)
2	CITY OF NAPA
3	P.O. BOX 660 NAPA, CA 94559
4	Telephone: (707) 257-9516 Facsimile: (707) 257-9274
5	Attorneys for THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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7	SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF NAPA
8	APPELLATE DIVISION
9	PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF) Case No.: CR154602
10	CALIFORNIA,
11	Respondent/Plaintiff,
12	vs. FILED
13	AUGHERTY, JUL = 8 2011
14	Appellant/Defendant. Clerk of the Name Suportor Court
15	By: Deputy
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19	PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S APPEAL BRIEF AS
20	CALLED FOR IN ORDER GRANTING REHEARING
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	PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S RESPONSIVE BRIEF AS
- 1	CALLED FOR IN ORDER GRANTING REHEARING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

_		∦ ₩
2	1.	Pursuant to the contract's cost neutrality provision, if the flat fee
3		threshold is not met through a sufficient number of citations over the
4		duration of the contract and the twelve subsequent months, then the City's payment to Redflex would be less than it would be if enough
		citations are issued to meet the threshold. Under these circumstances,
5		does the contract not provide for payment to Redflex to be based, at least
6		up to the flat fee threshold, on the number of citations generated? 1
7	2.	Since it could potentially receive less money under the cost neutrality
8		provision, does Redflex have some incentive to generate enough citations
9		to meet the flat fee threshold, thereby violating the legislative purpose behind section 21455.5, subsection (g)(1), and providing a basis for
		public concern regarding manipulation of the evidence Redflex provides
10		to the City from which the City decides which citations to issue? 6
11		7 15
12	3.	Is the argument that the cost neutrality provision was never triggered based on an invalid assumption that the flat fee threshold was met
13#		through citations issued on accurate evidence?7
ļ		
14	4.	Was the evidentiary presumption of Evidence Code section 1553 applicable to the production of the photographic and video evidence
15		presented by the People at trial in this matter? (See <i>People v. Goldsmith</i>
16		(2011) 193 Cal.App.4th Supp. 1.)
17	5.	If Evidence Code section 1553 was applicable, and assuming that the
18		City's contract does violate Vehicle Code section 21455.5, subsection
19		(g)(1), then was defendant's presentation of the invalid contract provision sufficient evidence that the images were unreliable such that the burden
		of presentation switched back to the People to prove that the images were
20		an accurate representation?9
21		ICT is a Code costion 1552 was not applicable in this case, or if
22	6.	If Evidence Code section 1553 was not applicable in this case, or if defendant met her burden of showing unreliability, then what evidence
23		did the People present to meet the burden of proving by a preponderance
24		of evidence that the images were accurate, i.e. that the photo editing performed by Redflex prior to transferring the images to the City did not
		compromise the accuracy of the images?
25		
26	7.	If the trial court erred in determining that the contract did not violate
27		Vehicle Code section 21455.5, subsection (g)(1), should the matter be
28		i i
-	$\ _{\widetilde{\mathrm{PF}}}$	OPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S RESPONSIVE BRIEF AS
		CALLED FOR IN ORDER GRANTING REHEARING

1	remanded to allow for the reliability of the evidence to be re-determined without a presumption of accuracy, or should the matter be dismissed
2	without further proceedings in the interest of justice?
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TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

	1
2	Cases
3	Barnett v. Superior Court (2010) 50 Cal.4 th 890
4	
5	Denham v. Superior Court
6	Contract of Description
7	Gay Law Students Assn. v. Pac. Tel. & Tel. Co (1979) 24 Cal.3d 4583
8	People v. Adams
9	(1976) 59 Cal.App.3d 559
10	People v. Coronado
11	[(1995)] 12 Cal. 4th 1453
12	People v. Dakin
13	(1988) 200 Cal.App.3d 10262, 3
14	People v. D'Arcy
15	(2010) 48 Cal.4th 257
16	People v. Goldsmith
J	(2011) 193 Cal.App.4th Supp. 19
17	People v. Guzman
18	(2005) 35 Cal.4 th 577
19	People v. Lucas
20	(1995) 12 Cal.4 th 415
21	People v. Sangani
22	(1994) 22 Cal. App. 4th 1120
23	People v. Walker
24	(2002) 29 Cal.4th 5772
	People v. Williams
25	(2002) 28 Cal.4 th 408
26	
27	·
28	iv
	PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S RESPONSIVE BRIEF AS CALLED FOR IN ORDER GRANTING REHEARING

1	In re Reeves (2005) 35 Cal.4 th 765
2	Statutes
3	C.C.P. section 18582
4	Cal. Const. art. I, section 28(d)
5	Evidence Code section 1553
6	Evidence Code section 351
7	Evidence Code section 664
8	Vehicle Code section 21455.5passim
9	Vehicle Code section 21455.5(c) and (d)
10	Vehicle Code section 21455.5(g)(1)passim
11	
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The People of the State of California provide the following brief, addressing the questions posed by the Court in its Order Granting Rehearing in this matter:

1. Pursuant to the contract's cost neutrality provision, if the flat fee threshold is not met through a sufficient number of citations over the duration of the contract and the twelve subsequent months, then the City's payment to Redflex would be less than it would be if enough citations are issued to meet the threshold. Under these circumstances, does the contract not provide for payment to Redflex to be based, at least up to the flat fee threshold, on the number of citations generated?

No. "Citations generated" are never a consideration in payment due from the City of Napa to Redflex, either by the terms of the contract, or in actual practice. Defendant Daugherty urges that the contract is unlawful because the cost neutrality arrangement between the parties could conceivably lead to Redflex receiving less revenue, temporarily, if the City receives insufficient revenue to cover its monthly fixed fee invoice, or permanently, if the City fails to receive enough revenue over the life of the contract, and 12 months beyond, to cover any accumulated debt. (There is no evidence that such a revenue shortfall has ever occurred.) Defendant concludes that this creates an "illegal financial incentive" for Redflex, which violates the Vehicle Code.

Defendant's challenge fails however, because there is no indication that such a "cost neutrality" contract clause -- a flat fee payment arrangement, which allows the potential for debt relief -- is what the Legislature had in its sights, or intended to prohibit by enacting Vehicle Code section

21455.5(g)(1). Instead, the Legislature expressly identified a narrower and more straightforward range of prohibited contract provisions, two to be precise — payment based on "number of citations generated, or … percentage of revenue generated."

If the Legislature had intended the broader prohibition of potential "financial incentive" urged by Defendant, it could without much trouble have substantially broadened the prohibition, for example, "any contract, which creates the possibility or potential, however remote, that (1) the manufacturer or supplier may experience greater or lesser revenues based upon on the amount of revenues generated to the public entity by the red light system, or (2) which otherwise creates any financial incentive whatsoever for the manufacturer or supplier to generate any additional increment of revenue to the public entity through the use of the equipment authorized under this section."

The Legislature obviously did not cast this broader net. The law assumes that the Legislature knows how to adopt language to convey the intended scope of its legislation, and consciously makes choices regarding such scope. (See *In re Reeves* (2005) 35 Cal.4th 765, 789 (dis. opn. of Chin, J.).) "[I]f the statutory language is not ambiguous, then we presume the Legislature meant what it said, and the plain meaning of the language governs." (*People v. Walker* (2002) 29 Cal.4th 577, 581.) The Court is to "ascertain and declare" the terms and substance of a statute, and it must not "substitute [its] will for that of the Legislature," nor "insert what has been omitted" from a statute. (*People v. Dakin* (1988) 200 Cal.App.3d 1026, 1035; C.C.P. section 1858; *People v. Guzman* (2005) 35 Cal.4th 577, 587.) A statute is to be read as a whole, seeking to effectuate every word, clause and

provision (Gay Law Students Assn. v. Pac. Tel. & Tel. Co (1979) 24 Cal.3d 458, 478), and "must be read in light of both the objective it seeks to achieve and the evil it seeks to avert." (People v. Dakin, 200 Cal.App.3d at 135.) Where the statute is clear, courts will not "interpret away clear language in favor of an ambiguity that does not exist." (People v. Coronado [(1995)] 12 Cal. 4th 145, 151[internal citations omitted].)

Here, the Legislature prohibited only two contract arrangements by its plain words: contract provisions expressly providing for (1) payment per "citation generated" and (2) payment based on "percentage of revenue generated." The statutory language is not ambiguous, and Defendant has not urged that it is. Neither prohibition is triggered by the City's cost neutrality clause, because that clause does not provide for payment based on "number of citations generated." Instead, it plainly provides for a flat fee payment due every month, with no reference to numbers of "citations generated."

In crafting section 21455.5, the Legislature sought to enable, legally and practically, the use of red light camera systems to catch dangerous traffic offenders. Review of the statute shows that, it contemplated private, profit motivated companies selling their services to law enforcement to provide such systems and services. Permitting profit-oriented companies to play a role obviously created the potential for mischief and manipulation. Any fair review of the entirety of section 21455.5 discloses that the Legislature sought to balance a good it wished to facilitate (more effective red light violation enforcement) with an evil it sought to avoid (the potential that service providers might manipulate systems to increase their revenues). Obviously, the Legislature could have sought to strike this balance in myriad ways. What it chose is the specific combined protections set forth in Vehicle Code section

21455.5, as explained below.

With or without a cost neutrality or debt relief provision, a red light service provider is financially motivated for its public entity client to generate enough revenue to cover the costs of its service. If those costs are not covered, then no public agency will retain the provider's services for long. Nevertheless, and in the face of this obvious economic truth, the Legislature did not choose to outlaw all contracts containing any species of "financial incentive" to generate revenue. Had it wished to remove every possible potential for private financial motivation, the Legislature could simply have prohibited any role whatever by private service providers. It also could have adopted a broader subsection (g)(1), plainly prohibiting any potential for "financial incentive" to a private service provider, as summarized above.

What the Legislature actually created -- to generate the "good" it sought, and to prevent the attendant potential for "evil" -- was a specific combination of (1) the narrowly circumscribed contract prohibitions, which prohibit egregious profit-oriented contract terms, set forth in section 21455.5(g)(1), and simultaneously, (2) section 21455.5(c) and (d)'s broad requirements that law enforcement actually act as the "operator" of the system: that it "develop guidelines" for such programs, and that it closely inspect, monitor and audit all material aspects of red light camera systems. By these requirements, the Legislature sought to ensure that public officials act as a "firewall," to be certain that the process is not infected by the potential financial incentive inherent with private red light service providers. Perhaps chief among these protections, the Legislature required that the public law enforcement agency "review and approve" every single citation prior to delivery to violators. The Legislature expressly made this, and other operating

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requirements, non-delegable (and the contract at issue here provides for citations to be issued only in the sole discretion of Napa Police Department personnel). The most reasonable assumption is that these detailed operational requirements were intentionally combined with the focused contract prohibitions, and intended to act together to eliminate the danger of financially motivated citations. The Legislature must be assumed, under the law, to have consciously balanced the good, and the potential for "evil," in such red light systems; the requirements and prohibitions of section 21455.5 are the coherent result of that work.

Defendant's arguments here amount to an invitation to override the careful balance struck by the Legislature in favor of Defendant's notion as to how best to effectuate the goal of trustworthy, accurate, effective red light camera systems. The Court cannot and should not sweep away the Legislature's multi-pronged policy solution to the potential for impropriety: the Legislature has expressly prohibited the most blatant financial motivation, i.e., "pay-per-ticket" and "percentage of revenue" clauses, while it has also required that public entities retain ultimate, detailed control over red light camera systems, and over the issuance of citations. The Court cannot and should not infer that the Legislature intended by the first prong to anticipate and prohibit every potential, hypothetical "financial incentive." That is not the language it adopted. Defendant can provide this Court with no rational basis to believe the Legislature considered, or intended to prohibit, contract clauses beyond those it specifically identified and prohibited as part of its balanced approach to providing effective, reliable red light camera systems to bolster traffic enforcement and safety.

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2. Since it could potentially receive less money under the cost neutrality provision, does Redflex have some incentive to generate enough citations to meet the flat fee threshold, thereby violating the legislative purpose behind section 21455.5, subsection (g)(1), and providing a basis for public concern regarding manipulation of the evidence Redflex provides to the City from which the City decides which citations to issue?

Although it could plainly have done so, the Legislature did not choose to anticipate and prohibit any and every contract term which might create "some incentive," however remote, to generate revenue. Nor did it outlaw any agreement which might conceivably create a "basis for public concern" regarding manipulation of evidence. These were motivations — — but not the language employed to create enforceable law. It is critical to note that even if the Court believes that the Legislature intended by this legislation to remove all such incentive, or to allay all such public concern, the law still requires the Court to apply the plain terms of the statute to the contract before it, whether or not such application perfectly accomplishes all of the Legislature's apparent goals. Put another way, a party's assertion of a broad Legislative "intent" cannot alter a narrower plain meaning of the words the Legislature actually chose to adopt. A full reading of section 21455.5 strongly suggests that the Legislature intended to prohibit blatant pay-per-ticket and percentageof-revenue agreements, and, hand-in-hand with those specific prohibitions, to more broadly and aggressively safeguard the process by requiring that law enforcement "operate" and control the systems, procedures, and issuance of citations.

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The Legislature clearly recognized that permitting private companies to provide red light camera services provided some basis for public concern. Yet it did so. Section 21455.5's nuanced balancing is the Legislature's response to that potential public concern. Defendant's identification of a basis for continued public concern (an amorphous concept, nearly impossible to legislate away) is neither the product of, nor the litmus test for any actual violation of section 21455.5. It is at most an indication that the statute may not have — whether intentionally or unintentionally — completely allayed every basis for public concern, or removed every potential for a private profit incentive. The Court must assume that whatever basis for public concern may remain in the limited prohibition of subsection (g)(1) was intended by the Legislature to be addressed by the stringent operational requirements of subsections (c) and (d) of section 21455.5. Here, Defendant does not and cannot assert that the Legislature's scheme has not worked precisely as intended - there is no evidence or assertion of any manipulation of the evidence supporting Defendant's conviction.

3. Is the argument that the cost neutrality provision was never triggered based on an invalid assumption that the flat fee threshold was met through citations issued on accurate evidence?

No. The cost neutrality provision has never been triggered; that is undisputed fact. The assertion of that fact is not based on any invalid assumption: every instance of a citation issued and paid, or a case tried to conviction for violation of law based on red light camera evidence, has been based in part on the legal presumption that digital photography and video

evidence supporting the violation is accurate, as a matter of law. (Evidence Code section 1553.) To the People's knowledge, no challenge has been sustained against any such evidence in any proceeding related to a Napa red light camera violation. Whether or not there is an instance of such a successful challenge, that has no impact on the many unchallenged, or unsuccessfully challenged citations that have led to conviction and payment.

As set forth above, the Legislature has chosen and mandated multiple protections against the potential for impropriety by private service providers, including that law enforcement authorities must operate, control, and certify the accuracy of the systems involved, and must control the issuance of citations. No aspect of that mandated control has been challenged in this action, and there is no basis for any assumption of improper conduct by government authorities. Indeed, the law requires courts to assume that official duties have been regularly and properly performed. (Evidence Code section 664; see Barnett v. Superior Court (2010) 50 Cal.4th 890, 899-900.)

As a result of presumptively accurate and reliable evidence, and presumptively valid citations which led to convictions and fine payments, sufficient citations have been paid to cover each flat fee invoice due for each camera, throughout the history of the City's red light camera program.

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Was the evidentiary presumption of Evidence Code section 4. 1553 applicable to the production of the photographic and video evidence presented by the People at trial in this matter? (See People v. Goldsmith (2011) 193 Cal.App.4th Supp. 1.)

Yes. The People are not aware of any authority or argument supporting any contrary position.

If Evidence Code section 1553 was applicable, and 5. assuming that the City's contract does violate Vehicle Code section 21455.5, subsection (g)(1), then was defendant's presentation of the invalid contract provision sufficient evidence that the images were unreliable such that the burden of presentation switched back to the People to prove that the images were an accurate representation?

No. Presentation of the "cost recovery" clause of the contract, without more, did not shift the burden to the People to prove the digital images were accurate or reliable, as set forth below.

First, the "cost recovery" clause of the contract is not unlawful, as found by trial judge Stephen Kroyer, and as more fully established above.

Second, presentation of the "cost recovery" clause of the contract, alone, provided no coherent evidence that the digital images in question were unreliable or inaccurate; it provided no more than an alleged technical violation of section 21455.5(g)(1). No authority states that such a technical violation creates a basis for shifting the burden of production, let alone a basis for exclusion of the digital image evidence. Indeed, and as asserted in detail in

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1	the People's Petition for Rehearing, the Legislature knows how to make
2	evidence expressly inadmissible, and its failure to do so here indicates an
3	intent not to do so. "Except as otherwise provided by statute, all relevant
4	evidence is admissible." (Evidence Code section 351.) "Where a statute
5	does not specifically provide that evidence shall be excluded for failure to
6	comply with said statutes and there are not constitutional issues involved,
7	such evidence is not inadmissible. Statutory compliance or non-compliance
8	merely goes to the weight of the evidence." (People v. Sangani (1994) 22
9	Cal. App. 4th 1120, 1137, citing <i>People v. Adams</i> (1976) 59 Cal. App. 3d
10	559, 566-567.) Moreover, the California Constitution prohibits the
11	exclusion of evidence in a criminal case unless compelled by the federal
12	Constitution or at the express direction of a statute adopted by two-thirds
13	vote of both houses of the Legislature. (Cal. Const. art. I, section 28(d);
14	People v. Williams (2002) 28 Cal.4th 408, 414, 417.)
15	Third, Defendant offered no evidence that the digital images were
16	inaccurate, or did not depict events as they actually occurred.
17	Fourth, even if the evidence offered would have supported another
18	trial judge's exclusion of the People's evidentiary images, Judge Kroyer, in
19	his broad discretion, admitted the evidence. It is axiomatic that such a
20	discretionary evidentiary determination is not reversible without a finding of
21	abuse of discretion by the reviewing court. (People v. D'Arcy (2010) 48
22	Cal.4th 257, 298.) Abuse of discretion applies only when the trial court
23	"exceeds the bounds of reason, all of the circumstances before it being
24	considered." (Denham v. Superior Court (1970) 2 Cal.3d 557, 566.) The
25	abuse of discretion standard applies to a determination as to whether the
26	burden of production/presentation has been met. (See People v. Lucas (1995

12 Cal.4th 415, 466.) Here, the burden was on Defendant, (Evidence Code section 1553.)

Fifth, and dispositively, Defendant failed to object to the entry into evidence of Exhibit 5, which contained the DVD/video of the violation, which the audio record shows the trial judge reviewed, and found to support conviction. (Audio Record of Trial at Minutes 40:00-41:02.)

At trial, Judge Kroyer did not rule or suggest that the accuracy or reliability of the digital images offered by the People had been called into question by the cost neutrality clause or other evidence. If he had done so, however, he also admitted and relied upon percipient witness evidence provided by John Brandt of the Napa Police Department in support of the accuracy of the images he relied upon to convict Defendant. (Audio Record of Trial at Minutes 33:40-36:05; 1:07:55-1:09:30.) Thus, if the burden of presentation had shifted to the People, Judge Kroyer must be deemed to have determined that the People's burden was met.

No authority suggests, let alone establishes, that the trial court abused its discretion in admitting the visual images which supported conviction. This Court should not rule otherwise. Without such a ruling, there is no basis for reversal, as the conviction was supported by substantial, admissible evidence.

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6. If Evidence Code section 1553 was not applicable in this case, or if defendant met her burden of showing unreliability, then what evidence did the People present to meet the burden of proving by a preponderance of evidence that the images were accurate, i.e. that the photo editing performed by Redflex prior to transferring the images to the City did not compromise the accuracy of the images?

The People are not aware of any basis for a claim that Evidence Code section 1553 was not applicable at trial.

Defendant did not meet her burden of showing unreliability by presenting the cost neutrality clause of the contract, as set forth above. Admission of the visual evidence was properly within the discretion of the trial court, and that discretion was properly exercised. It certainly was not abused sufficient to support reversal, or even remand.

The People offered, and the trial court admitted and relied on percipient testimony by John Brandt that the system was operating properly, and that the photo and video evidence was therefore reliable. (Audio Record of Trial at Minutes 33:40-36:05; 1:07:55-1:09:30.) Substantial, admissible evidence supported the conviction.

Finally, it is crucial to note that Defendant did not object to the entry into evidence of Exhibit 5, the DVD containing the video of the violation, which the trial court reviewed and relied on in convicting Defendant. While Defendant clearly objected to the still photos of the event, she just as clearly did not object to the video, which was admitted into evidence, and which just as clearly provided sufficient admissible evidence to support conviction. (Audio Record of Trial at Minutes 40:00-41:02.)

7. If the trial court erred in determining that the contract did not violate Vehicle Code section 21455.5, subsection (g)(1), should the matter be remanded to allow for the reliability of the evidence to be redetermined without a presumption of accuracy, or should the matter be dismissed without further proceedings in the interest of justice?

The People of course request that if the Court reaches the question, which it need not, that the Court determine that the contract is not unlawful. As set forth above, this conviction may be affirmed solely on the basis that substantial evidence was properly admitted by the trial court, which supported conviction.

Assuming that the trial court erred in determining that the contract was not unlawful, then as established above, the conviction should nevertheless be affirmed because the trial court acted within its discretion when it heard Defendant's objections and admitted all of the relevant evidentiary images and the percipient testimony of John Brandt, all of which supported the conviction. Moreover, the DVD/video evidence which came into evidence without objection, by itself, defeats this appeal. (Audio Record of Trial at Minutes 40:00-41:02.)

If the trial court erred both in (1) determining that the contract was not unlawful, and separately, (2) in admitting the People's digital photos and DVD/video images, then either of two outcomes is proper: the Court, having expressly vacated its May 26, 2011 Opinion, may dismiss this matter in the interest of justice, as was requested by the People (Napa Police Department) earlier in this proceeding. The Court may also remand the matter to the trial court for further proceedings to assess the admissibility of the photographic

and DVD/video evidence at issue here. PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA July 🖔, 2011 By: Deputy City Attorney