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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Barker Ranch Update
Conclusion of Excavation

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The Inyo County Sheriff's Department concluded excavation at Barker Ranch this afternoon. Based on exploratory excavations, scientists and law enforcement personnel have determined that there are no human remains in or around the five areas of interest.

Sheriff Lutze authorized exploratory excavation to confirm or put to rest speculation that bodies may remain from the Charles Manson era. Investigators and scientists used portable ground penetrating radar, magnetometers, lasers and ALS (alternative light sources). "Lasers will help us locate tiny bone and tooth fragments which might be overlooked with conventional search methods," Sheriff Lutze said. "Even splinters of bone will light up under these powerful lasers and ALS. If it glows it goes – we know immediately if we are looking at suspected bone fragments. Our investigators are able to make a more complete recovery using laser technology."

Forensic investigation commenced on five "hot spots" yesterday morning. The first site, the largest of the five, yielded a bullet casing. Excavation of the second site of interest was turned over to the National Park Service when remnants of what appeared to be ash and small animal bone were discovered. National Park Service determined that this particular site would be handled as an archeological dig. The remaining sites were thoroughly excavated today and no indications of human remains were discovered.

A time and date for a press conference will be posted at the Inyo County web site, www.inyocounty.us, by June 19th for Sheriff Lutze to answer questions regarding the Barker Ranch excavation.

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