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**C O U N T Y O F K E R N**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Approved by CJZ  
Press Release #23-33

**Suspect Arrested on Charges for EDD Fraud After Thorough Investigation by  
District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations**

(Bakersfield) - After an eight-month long investigation, investigators from the Kern County District Attorney's Office served a search warrant and arrest warrant at the home of Ruben Barajas Rodriguez, 54, on Thursday, July 20, 2023. The suspect has been charged with multiple felony counts involving the theft of several hundred thousand dollars in Employment Development Department (EDD) funds. The suspect is currently in custody, with bail set at \$1 million. The investigation began in November 2020, and is ongoing. Additional felony charges may be added as this investigation develops.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "I am pleased with the ongoing efforts of law enforcement in uncovering EDD fraud that significantly increased during the pandemic. The District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation is committed to protecting the taxpayer by fighting against all types of fraud."

Anyone who has information regarding EDD fraud is asked to contact the Kern County District Attorney's Office at 661-868-2350.