

## Judge trims bail for trucker charged in fatal Angeles Crest Highway crash

From Staff and Wire Reports

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Marcos Costa, the driver of a big rig that lost its brakes on Angeles Crest Highway and smashed into a car that killed the driver and driver's daughter, was arraigned at Pasadena Superior Court Monday April 13, 2009. Marcos Costa pleaded not guilty to vehicular manslaughter charges. (SGVN/Staff Photo by Walt Mancini)

PASADENA - A judge Friday cut bail nearly in half for a truck driver indicted in connection with a

multi-vehicle wreck on Angeles Crest Highway that killed a 12-year-old Palmdale girl and her father.

Pasadena Superior Court Judge Lisa Lench agreed to reduce Marcos Costa's bail from \$600,000 to \$340,000 as he awaits trial on two counts of vehicular manslaughter for the April 1 deaths of Angelina Posca and her 58-year-old father, Angel Jorge Posca, and three counts of reckless driving causing injury to three other people.

Also Friday, prosecutors announced they will appeal the judge's Oct. 9 decision to dismiss two murder counts against Costa stemming from the two deaths, according to Jane Robison of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

"I think the appeal is ill-advised (and) will not succeed," Costa's attorney, Steve Meister, said after the hearing. "I'm angry that my client has been dangling on the D.A.'s leash while they leisurely contemplate their next action."

The defense attorney has repeatedly contended that the prosecution has mistaken "tragedy for a crime" in the case of his client, a Brazilian national who lives in the Boston area.

Costa, who has been jailed since the grand jury's indictment was unsealed June 19, is due back in court next Thursday for trial, which is expected to be postponed for 10 court days. The trial could be delayed longer if the appellate court agrees to consider the appeal.

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The Poscas' car was struck near the Foothill (210) Freeway by Costa's double-decker car-hauling rig, which had lost its brakes and careened down Angeles Crest Highway.

The big-rig pushed the car about 200 yards into the intersection of Foothill Boulevard, where four other vehicles were struck before the truck smashed into a coffee shop and bookstore.

In the aftermath of the crash, La Cañada Flintridge city officials lashed out at Caltrans, contending the state's transportation agency had failed to respond to their concerns about safety on the highway.

The city had first appealed to the state for changes on the route after a crash on Sept. 5, 2008, in which a truck carrying 70,000 pounds of onions plowed through the same intersection and into the parking lot of the Hill Street Cafe, demolishing seven vehicles but causing only one minor injury.

In response to the April 1 crash, Caltrans instituted a 90-day ban on five-axle trucks along Angeles Crest Highway between the Angeles Forest Highway and the 210 Freeway. The ban was later made permanent.

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