

Case Number
MG1700802

Date
06/24/17

Deputy
J.TOTTEN

Supplement 01

On June 23, 2017 at approximately 1546 hours, I received a report of a missing swimmer in the Merced River near Cable Rock in the area of Briceburg Recreational Area. I had dispatch callout the Search and Rescue (SAR) team and I responded to the point last seen.

I arrived and observed the BLM River Ranger was on scene and was speaking to possible witnesses. I started a down river search from the point last seen.

Search and Rescue Volunteer David Thorpe arrived at approximately 1648 hours and spoke to potential witnesses. He spoke with two females that I was not aware of and did not identify. The two females were not part of the group that was with the missing swimmer.

They told Thorpe that one of the females observed the swimmer, later identified as Ronnie Cole, go into the water above Cable Rock and swim around the rock. She believed he was going to come around the rock and come out on the other side. She lost sight of him and he did not come out.

The other female was on top of Cable Rock and observed him swim by struggling and going under water a couple of times and she lost sight of him.

Witnesses said that he was last seen wearing blue jeans, tennis shoes and no shirt.

SAR volunteers, BLM River Ranger and Deputies did a hasty search down river from the point last seen. We checked near the bank in eddies and strainers looking for any signs.

CHP helicopter H-40 arrived at approximately 1700 hours and started searching down river.

Units actively searched from Cable Rock to Willow Placer Campground, checking areas that we have recovered other drowning victims.

We searched until sundown with negative results.

I advised patrol units to frequently check the area until the search could resume in the morning.

Per Dreamflows website the Merced River flow below Briceburg at noon on Friday June 23, 2017 was 7.750 cubic feet per second and the water temperature was estimated in the low 50's Fahrenheit.

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Approved by : SGT.TOTTEN Date : 06/24/2017 11:56 PM