

MONTEREY COUNTY

# DA to look into ticket claims

## TRAFFIC JUDGE FIXED TICKETS FOR FRIENDS, EX-COURT CLERK SAYS

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*Herald Salinas Bureau*

The Monterey County District Attorney's Office will investigate a former court clerk's allegation that traffic commissioner Richard Rutledge fixed tickets for friends.

The announcement came one day after Rutledge, 48, was placed on administrative leave as a result of a hard e-mail sent throughout the court system by former clerk Crystal Powser, who says she decided to blow the whistle out of revenge because he had broken off their sexual relationship.

The district attorney's investigation pre-empts a previously announced probe by the state Administrative Office of the Courts. Instead, said District Attorney Dean Filippo, the courts office will only investigate "the administrative and personnel issues."

"The Superior Court executive committee now feels it would be appropriate for me to look into the ticket situation," Filippo said.

It remains unclear who will preside over traffic court in the meantime. For a week, the Salinas courthouse has been abuzz over the e-mail sent by Powser, longtime

# London finance hub a target, police say

TERRORIST metals, oil and commodities.

James Hart, commissioner of the City of London Police, said Wednesday that it is only a matter of time before terrorists attack London's financial heartland.



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