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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Re: **Willie Royce Williams**

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney James Brazelton announced today that convicted armed-robbery suspect Willie Royce Williams, age 37, of Modesto, has been sentenced to 216 years to life in state prison.

On March 12th, 2002, Williams was convicted by a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury of 12 counts of robbery and one count of escape from jail. Deputy District Attorney Dawna Frenchie prosecuted the case and appeared on behalf of the People at the sentencing hearing before Superior Court Judge Glenn A. Ritchey Jr.

During January of 1997, in the cities of Ceres and Modesto, Williams committed a string of armed robberies against local businesses by leaping over counters and demanding money with a rifle. Williams also took personal property from his victims and usually fled from the crime scene in a stolen get away car.

After his arrest, Williams was in custody less than a month when he escaped from the Stanislaus County jail by hiding in a laundry cart. He was later re-captured and additional charges were filed against him. Williams was sentenced under California's "Three Strikes" law because of his criminal history, which included having convictions for previously committing other armed robberies.