



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: June 14, 2005

Re: Luis Urena

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY JIM BRAZELTON ANNOUNCED TODAY that Luis Urena, age 34, of Modesto, was arrested on June 14th, 2005 on a warrant charging him with 36 counts of felony Insurance Fraud. Bail on the warrant has been set at \$525,000.00. Urena's arrest came after a five month joint criminal investigation conducted by the California Department of Insurance (CDI) Investigation Division and Investigators from the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office.

Urena operated a business in Salida, California under the name of Urena Insurance Agency. The complaint filed in Stanislaus County Superior Court alleges that Urena collected premiums from consumers looking for homeowners, automobile, and commercial automobile insurance policies. This includes claims that Urena failed to forward the premium payments to the insurance companies and then issued fraudulent insurance certificates or insurance identification cards to the victims. It was later discovered that the premiums had not been forwarded and there was no insurance in effect to cover any claims. The Department of Insurance and the District Attorney's office have received information that several claims may have gone unpaid as a result of this practice. The current known loss is believed to be over \$100,000.00 (one hundred thousand dollars).

This joint investigation revealed more than one hundred potential victims. Anyone who believes they may also be a victim is encouraged to contact the CDI Investigation Division at (916) 492-3400, or the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office Investigator at (209) 558-4495.