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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: June 12, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Juan Bautista

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Auto Thief Sentenced to 2 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Juan Bautista, age 33, of Modesto, was convicted of Auto Theft and admitted a prior auto theft conviction from March 2008 for which he is currently on probation. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on May 30, 2009 at approximately 8:21 a.m. in the area of Western Avenue and Leon Avenue in Modesto. The defendant was driving a 1988 white Toyota van that had been reported stolen the day before. The officer also observed that the ignition had been damaged. Bautista claimed that a friend gave the van to him, but had no contact information for his friend.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Thomas Zeff sentenced Bautista to two years in state prison.

Stanislaus County residents can report suspected vehicle theft activity to their local law enforcement agency or contact the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (STANCATT) at: (209) 545-7316.

**IF YOU OBSERVE A THEFT IN PROGRESS, DIAL 911**

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