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**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: April 8, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Matt Steven Berg  
Auto Thief Sentenced to  
Three Years in Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Matt Steven Berg, age 23, of Modesto, was convicted of auto theft. The defendant also admitted having served a prior prison term for a felony theft conviction in June 2006. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on October 1, 2008 at a Chevron gas station in Manteca when the defendant stole a landscaper's 1997 gray Toyota pick-up truck and utility trailer in order to get from Manteca back to Modesto. Berg stated that he saw that the truck was unlocked and the keys were inside while the owner went inside the Chevron convenience store. When Berg drove the pick-up truck to Modesto, he abandoned it in the parking lot of an office building on Tully Road where two witnesses observed him and called law enforcement.

The Honorable Timothy Salter sentenced Berg to three years in state prison.

The District Attorney's Office urges citizens to not leave their unattended vehicles unlocked with the keys inside, however briefly.

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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