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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: April 9, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: RAFAEL GALVAN
Boat Thief Convicted by Jury

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Rafael Galvan, age 36, of Waterford, was found guilty after a jury trial of possession of a stolen boat and trailer. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on April 5, 2008 when Galvan stole a 1992 “Invador” pleasure boat atop a boat trailer that had been stored in the driveway of a house on Quicksilver Street in Waterford. Approximately six days later, the victim observed the defendant towing just the boat trailer and called the Sheriff’s Office. When deputies questioned Galvan, he claimed that his friend, whose name he did not know, stated that the boat was abandoned on the driveway of the house. Galvan then claimed he took the boat and trailer and went to the Fox Grove Fishing Access near Hughson. When asked whether he still believed that the boat was abandoned even though the boat and the home it was taken from were in such good condition, Galvan refused to comment further. When Deputies located the boat at the Fox Grove Fishing Access in Hughson, they discovered that the canopy and ignition had been damaged.

The defendant’s prior violent felony convictions for battery causing serious bodily injury from September 1997, and an assault with a knife from January 2002 for which he served a term of imprisonment, were also found true. The defendant’s two prior violent felony convictions would have subjected him to twenty-five years to life under California’s “Three Strikes” law. After the defendant brought a motion to strike one of the prior convictions, the Honorable Ricardo Cordova struck a prior over the People’s objection and sentenced Galvan to seven years in state prison.

Stanislaus County residents can report suspected boat 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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