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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: January 5, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Alejandro Morfin Huizar  
Auto Thief Sentenced to Sixteen Months in Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Alejandro Morfin Huizar, age 25, of Modesto, was sentenced by Judge Donald Shaver to sixteen months in state prison after he was convicted of auto theft and evading a peace officer. The defendant was already on probation and a drug treatment program pursuant to Proposition 36 for two separate felony cases from May 2007 in which Huizar pled guilty to possession of methamphetamine. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on December 24, 2008 when the defendant stole a 1999 silver Dodge Stratus from outside the Patterson Bar and Grill. CHP Officer Banuelos was patrolling on Crows Landing rode, saw the vehicle, checked and confirmed that the vehicle was just reported stolen. Officer Banuelos activated his lights and siren to initiate a vehicle stop. Huizar then accelerated to 60 mph and failed to stop at the red traffic signals at Service Road and at Whitmore Avenue. Huizar hit a curb and crashed, jumped out of the car and ran towards a fence. Huizar was taken into custody. The defendant also admitted to stealing a 1992 Acura Integra out of Ceres and led officers to its location.

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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