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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 18, 2009
Re: Pedro Sepulveda, Jr.
Two-Year Prison Sentence for Felony
Evading a Peace Officer

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that on September 4, 2009, Pedro Sepulveda, Jr, 34 of Modesto, was convicted of evading a peace officer, a felony. Deputy District Attorney Abel C.K. Hung prosecuted the case for the People.

On June 18, 2009, Sepulveda was the driver of one of two vehicles that were stopped by a California Highway Patrol (CHP) patrol unit for speeding. Both vehicles initially yielded to the side of State Route 132 (SR-132) in Modesto after the CHP unit activated emergency lights. As the CHP officer approached Sepulveda's vehicle, he quickly accelerated and made a u-turn across SR-132 at a high speed. During this turning movement, Sepulveda's vehicle pulled right in front of and struck an oncoming vehicle traveling on SR-132. After both vehicles collided, Sepulveda's vehicle began to smoke and eventually caught on fire. CHP Officer M. Wright quickly pulled Sepulveda out of the burning wreckage. Eventually, both vehicles involved in the collision caught on fire and were totally destroyed. Sepulveda had previously been convicted of a violent felony that falls under California's "Three Strikes" law.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Donald E. Shaver sentenced Sepulveda to two (2) years in state prison.

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