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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Date: February 9, 2009

Re: People v. Francisco Soto-Cuevas - Drug  
Charges send man to prison for 3 years

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced that Francisco Javier Soto-Cuevas, 23, of Ceres, CA, was convicted of Manufacturing Methamphetamine and Possession of Cocaine for Sale. Deputy District Attorney Shawn Barlow prosecuted the case for the People.

On December 17, 2007, agents with the Stanislaus County Drug Enforcement Agency served a search warrant at a single family residence located on Kay Street in the city of Ceres. Inside the home, agents located numerous items associated with the manufacturing of methamphetamine and the sale of cocaine. These items included pseudoephedrine pills, denatured alcohol, caustic soda beads, cooking vessels and glass containers. Agents also uncovered over one gram of cocaine along with cell phones, digital scales and packaging materials. Agents determined the clandestine methamphetamine lab was capable of producing one to two pounds of finished methamphetamine.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Timothy Salter sentenced Soto-Cuevas to three years in state prison.