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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 30, 2010
Re: Isidoro Mata - Murder Conviction

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Isidoro Mata, 21 of Modesto, was sentenced July 30, 2010 on eleven counts - one count of Murder, three counts of attempted murder, and a number of other offenses and enhancements. Deputy District Attorney Brad Nix prosecuted the case for the People.

On June 10, 2006 beginning around 6:00 p.m, Mata, then age 17, and the Cabanillas brothers, drove to four homes in south Modesto. Mata drove the car at all times. Angel Cabanillas was the right front passenger. Each of the people in the car were members of Southside Trece, a set (or sub-grouping) of the criminal street gang the Surenos. After passing by a home on Almaden where a birthday party was underway, Mata made gang signs and the car left. There were approximately 20 to 25 adults and 10 to 15 children at the party, most of whom were in the front yard. The children were playing basketball and jumping in an inflatable bouncer. The car returned to the house three times. Each time it did, Angel Cabanillas pulled out a rifle pointed it at the partygoers and attempted to fire it. Although witness accounts varied regarding how many shots were fired and on which pass, Mata was able to fire at least one shot at partygoers on the first or second pass and two more shots on the third pass. Two of the shots hit the interior of the attached garage and the third and final shot struck Manual Rayas, age 28, in the side of his chest. Mr. Rayas was attempting to flee into the house when he was shot. Rayas died a short while later at a local hospital. Rayas lived out of the county, was not a gang member, and was in the county for the day only to attend the birthday party of a friend. No one at the house on Almaden was a member of any gang but one party attendee was wearing a red Joe Montana football jersey and is believed to have been mistaken for a gang member.

In between the second and third pass at the house on Almaden, Mata and his passengers drove around the block and stopped at a house where a family was out in their driveway. Angel Cabanillas pointed his rifle at each member of that family, beginning with a teenage girl wearing a red sweatshirt, and exchanged a number of angry words with the girl and her sister.

The car then began to drive off but stopped at another house two doors down and again Mata pointed the rifle at the occupants of that house. Mata then went on around the block and its

muffler was so loud that a family was able to hear it as it came near them on the far side of the block by the house on Almaden. That family then heard the final shots of the third pass.

After the shooting of Rayas on Almaden, Mata and the passengers drove to a fourth house in south Modesto about a mile away, stopped there, yelled “we’re scrappa’s” at the victim, a known member of the Norteno criminal street gang and Angel Cabanillas shot him as he ducked for cover, striking him in the leg. Mata drove off and was spotted by officers of the Modesto Police Department within eight minutes of the last shooting being reported to Emergency Dispatch,

The Honorable Timothy Salter sentenced Mata to 117 years to life in state prison. The shooter, Angel Cabanillas, was previously sentenced to 132 years to life on October 9, 2009.