



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Jerry Begen
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: August 9, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Jose Moron Lara
Auto Thief Sentenced to
4 Years, 8 Months

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jose Moron Lara, age 19, of Patterson, was convicted on March 9, 2010 of residential burglary, auto theft, and participating in a criminal street gang. Residential burglary is a “strike” under California’s Three Strikes Law. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

Between January 4, 2010 and January 29, 2010, Lara broke into a home on Apricot Avenue in Patterson and stole several items. The homeowner had recently suffered a stroke and was living with relatives in Livermore. Lara also stole the homeowner’s 1988 white Ford pick-up truck that was parked in the home’s carport. When the homeowner returned, he noticed that his home had been ransacked and called the police. Deputies then discovered a partial print on an opened mango can that was left in the home that matched Lara’s fingerprints. After Lara was located, he admitted to burglarizing the home. Later that day, deputies recovered the pick-up truck that had been abandoned along a canal in Patterson. Lara is a member of the Sureno criminal street gang.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Scott Steffen sentenced Lara to four years and eight months in prison.

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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