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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:

Date: May 16, 2011

Re: Dax Michael Arredondo

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Carjacker Gets
10 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Dax Michael Arredondo, age 39, of Patterson, was convicted on May 3, 2011 of carjacking, robbery, assault on a peace officer with a deadly weapon, and evading a peace officer. Arredondo also admitted prior convictions for auto theft and possession of methamphetamine in February 2008 for which he served a term of imprisonment. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On August 10, 2010 at approximately 7:00 a.m. in a residential neighborhood on Hannah Drive in Patterson, Arredondo attempted to take a 2006 green Nissan Altima from a victim as she was sitting in her car and preparing to drive to work. After Arredondo pulled her out of her car, she was able to run to safety at a neighbor's house. Arredondo sat in the driver's seat and rummaged through her purse trying to find her car keys. Unable to find the car keys, Arredondo then ran towards a man who was coming out of his home with his mother and sister. He was yelling "give me your car." The male immediately went back inside his home with his family, locked the front door and called 911. Arredondo then charged towards an open garage where an unoccupied 2007 white Honda Civic car was being warmed up. As Arredondo approached the car, the owner walked back into the garage and tried to stop Arredondo from going inside his car. Arredondo then pushed the owner into an open lawn chair in the garage, jumped into the running car, and drove off. Within minutes, officers located Arredondo driving the stolen vehicle in the area of Las Palmas Avenue and Sycamore Avenue in Patterson. Ignoring the lighted red lights and sirens on the marked patrol cars, Arredondo accelerated away. Eventually, Arredondo made a u-turn and accelerated directly towards the front of a pursuing officer's patrol vehicle at approximately 25 m.p.h. Arredondo then rammed the front of the patrol vehicle and was immediately taken into custody. Arredondo later stated that he had been "released from prison on August 4th and has been on a meth binge since, and has not been to

sleep since he has been released.”

The Honorable Thomas Zeff sentenced Arredondo to the aggravated term, or maximum sentence, for carjacking of ten years in state 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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