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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: June 10, 2011

Re: Casey Lyn Kerns
Auto Thief Gets
6 Years Prison

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Casey Lyn Kerns, age 28, of Modesto, was convicted on June 10, 2011 of auto theft, possession of a stolen vehicle, felon in possession of ammunition, and resisting arrest. Kerns also admitted he served prior prison terms for auto theft in December 2004, and possession of methamphetamine in August 2006 and May 2008. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On August 5, 2010 at approximately 7:30 a.m. in the area of Scenic Avenue and Rose Avenue in Modesto, an officer from the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT) observed Kerns driving a 2003 maroon Chevy Venture van that had just been reported stolen out of a driveway on Kruger Drive in Modesto. The officer followed and watched Kerns park next to a 1998 silver Mercedes Benz. That car had been reported stolen from the victim's driveway on Jacquelyn Way in Modesto on July 29, 2010. Kerns then entered the Mercedes, removed a speaker box, placed it inside the van and drove off. After the officer activated his lights and siren, Kerns drove into an apartment complex and stopped the van. Kerns then jumped out and ran away, before being caught following a short foot pursuit. After his arrest, Kerns posted bail and was released from custody.

On June 2, 2011 at approximately 5:00 p.m., a routine parole search was conducted at Kerns's residence on MacGregor Drive in Modesto. As officers approached, Kerns tried to run away on foot but was caught a short distance away. Officers located five rounds of ammunition in his pocket. As a convicted felon, Kerns is prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition.

The Honorable Thomas Zeff sentenced Kerns to six 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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