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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 11, 2013
Re: People v. Amado Morales, 1403616

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Amado Morales, age 55, of Modesto, was sentenced by Judge Dawna Reeves to 13 years in state prison for Possession of Heroin for Sale after a jury convicted Morales on November 29, 2012. At that time, the jury also found that Morales had prior convictions for robbery and residential burglary which are strikes under the "Three Strikes" law. They also found that Morales had served five previous terms in state prison. Deputy District Attorney John Goulart prosecuted the case for the People.

On June 9, 2009, the Modesto Police Department's Narcotic Enforcement Team (MNET) conducted a buy/bust operation in which they had an operative attempt to buy heroin using a marked bill. Shortly after the operative successfully purchased heroin from Morales through an intermediary, MNET arrested Morales and found him to be in possession of 66 pieces of black tar heroin along with the marked buy money. Morales admitted that he was selling heroin. Morales has an extensive criminal history; he has spent almost his entire adult life in prison, in jail, on probation, or on parole.

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