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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: February 9, 2015  
Re: People v. Victor Velasquez 1473363

**For More Information Contact:**

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Victor Velasquez, age 25, of Modesto, was sentenced on February 2, 2015 by the Honorable Rick Distaso to 12 years in state prison for Gross Vehicular Manslaughter while Intoxicated, and enhancements of Leaving the Scene of a Vehicular Manslaughter and Causing Great Bodily Injury. Deputy District Attorney Tony Colacito prosecuted the case for the People. His position is funded by a grant by the Office of Traffic Safety.

On May 3, 2014, Velasquez collided with the back of a 1999 Volkswagen Passat at a high rate of speed while the Passat was stopped at a stop sign. The driver of the Passat, Ana Sandoval-Melendez of Ceres, suffered serious injuries and the passenger, her mother, Amparo Sandoval, was killed. Velasquez fled the scene but was held by a citizen whose vehicle was also struck by Velasquez. Velasquez had a blood alcohol level of .17/.18%. Velasquez also admitted having ingested cocaine before driving.

Velasquez had entered a plea of no contest on December 8, 2014.

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