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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: 3/28/07  
Re: JOSE MANUEL DUARTE-  
RODRIGUEZ

**For More Information Contact:**

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that JOSE MANUEL DUARTE-RODRIGUEZ has been convicted by a Stanislaus County Superior Court Jury of First Degree Murder along with an enhancement for being vicariously armed with a firearm, after a 6 day jury trial in Department 7 of the Superior Court before Judge Donald Shaver. Chief Deputy District Attorney John Goold prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

Duarte was accused of being involved in the shooting death of victim Manuel Arciga Ornelas which occurred on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1998 at Brennan Park on H Street in Oakdale. Duarte was arrested on the murder charge in August of 2005 when he crossed into California from Mexico at the Calexico Border Station. Co-defendant Enrique Lopez is also charged in the case and is believed to be hiding in Mexico.

Duarte returns to court on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 for a court trial to determine the validity of two prior serious felony convictions. In 1981, Duarte was convicted by a Stanislaus County jury of the kidnap and rape of an Oakdale woman. He faces the potential maximum sentence of life in state prison.