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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: December 7, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Robert David Calton  
Auto Thief Sentenced to  
5 Years, 4 Months Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Robert David Calton, age 43, of Modesto, was convicted of possession of methamphetamine, auto theft, and escape from the honor farm. Calton also admitted a prior conviction for assaulting a peace officer, a “strike” under California’s “Three Strikes” law, from October 1997. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On May 22, 2009 at around 1:30 a.m. in the area of Virginia Avenue and W. Roseburg Avenue in Modesto, Calton was driving a vehicle with no rear lights. After performing a routine traffic stop, the officer discovered that Calton was searchable as a condition of his parole status. In Calton’s pants pocket, the officer located a small ziplock baggie that contained methamphetamine. After being arrested, Calton posted bail and was released from jail.

Between October 23- 26, 2009, the lock on a gate to a business complex on Kansas Avenue in Modesto was cut and a trailer with a Bobcat tractor loaded on it was stolen. On November 18, 2009, officers from the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT) located the Bobcat tractor being used at a golf driving range in Modesto. The owner of the range stated that Calton rented her the Bobcat so that she could perform work on the range. After his arrest, Calton claimed that a friend loaned him the Bobcat.

On November 25, 2009 at approximately 3 p.m., deputies at the Stanislaus County Honor Farm observed Calton, wearing his inmate jumpsuit, running from the facility into an orchard. Within minutes, Calton was apprehended and brought back.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Dawna Frenchie Reeves sentenced Calton to five years and four months in state prison

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