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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: November 6, 2009
Re: Manuel Pineda Pineda
Conviction for Drugs

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Manuel Pineda Pineda, age 46, of Modesto, was found guilty of Possession of Cocaine for Sale and Possession of Methamphetamine after a 4-day jury trial. A court trial resulted in a finding that Pineda had a prior conviction for drug sales, and that he had served two prior prison terms. Deputy District Attorney Abel Hung prosecuted the case for the People.

On March 20, 2009, Stanislaus County Sheriff deputies assigned to the Special Team Investigating Narcotics and Gangs (S.T.I.N.G.) were working gang suppression in South Modesto when they received anonymous information that a Hispanic male was selling drugs out of the El Paraiso bar in Modesto. The deputies also received information that the subject rode a yellow and purple motorcycle. Based on that information, the deputies went to the El Paraiso bar and observed the described motorcycle in the parking lot the bar. On March 26, 2009, the same deputies assigned to S.T.I.N.G. were driving past the El Paraiso bar when they noticed Pineda leaning on the motorcycle. As the deputies made a u-turn in their patrol vehicle, they observed Pineda walk away from the motorcycle and enter a nearby taco truck. The deputies went up to the taco truck and saw Pineda crouched down inside the driver's cab of the truck. The deputies contacted Pineda and conducted a search of his person. Pineda was found to be in possession of two Ziploc baggies of a methamphetamine and 11 small plastic bindles of cocaine.

The Honorable Timothy Salter, who presided over the trial, scheduled a sentencing hearing for December 9, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in Department 1. Pineda faces a possible maximum prison commitment of 9 years and 8 months.

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