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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: December 29, 2009
Re: Andrew G. Ybarra, Sr.
Thief Sentenced to 4 Years in prison

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Andrew G. Ybarra, Sr., age 51, of Merced, was sentenced on December 23, 2009, for Grand Theft and Willful Failure to Appear After Being Released on Bail.

Between May 9, 2008 and May 10, 2008, the defendant, Andrew G. Ybarra Sr., posed as an employee of a company allegedly hired to clear equipment and property from a residence off Redwood Road in Ceres. The property owner was away at the time. Numerous items were taken from the property, including farm equipment and vehicles, trailers, and personal belongings. Other heavy equipment stored on the property was being cut into more manageable pieces of metal for recycling. A friend of the property owner, knowing that the property owner was gone, saw the "clean up" in progress and confronted Ybarra. Ybarra produced a document indicating that he was hired to clear the property. The suspicious friend called the Sheriff's Office and deputies responded to the scene. Upon further investigation, the deputies attempted to contact the "company" Ybarra supposedly worked for and learned that the number was to the home of Ybarra's relative in Texas. The relative provided Ybarra's true identity to deputies and Ybarra's scheme was exposed. Ybarra was arrested. It was later determined that Ybarra had sold a stolen tractor to a business in Merced County. That business was identified with the help of Atwater Police and the tractor was recovered. Two trailers stolen from the property have also been recovered, resulting in the arrest and conviction of additional suspects. Ybarra had also damaged other equipment being stored on the property, including an industrial forklift. The forks were being cut off for scrap metal when the crime was discovered.

The defendant was sentenced to three years in state prison on a Grand Theft charge in Butte County and was returned here for sentencing on the above cases. The Honorable Donald E. Shaver sentenced him to 4 years in state prison to be served consecutively to the Butte County sentence.

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