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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: October 21, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Cody Eugene Wilson  
Auto Thief Sentenced to  
Three Years Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Cody Eugene Wilson, age 29, of Turlock, was convicted on October 21, 2010 of auto theft, evading a peace officer, vehicle burglary and resisting arrest. Wilson had been participating in the Proposition 36 drug treatment program stemming from a May 2010 conviction for possession of methamphetamine. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On October 4, 2010 at about 1:30 a.m, in the area of the California State University, Stanislaus in Turlock, an officer observed Wilson texting while driving a 2001 silver Pontiac Grand Am. When the officer tried to make a routine traffic stop, Wilson accelerated away at over 80 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h. zone, running several stop signs and traveling in opposite lanes of travel. Wilson then drove into the middle of an almond orchard and was able to escape on foot. After running the vehicle license plate through dispatch, the officer discovered that the vehicle had been reported stolen out of Modesto on September 18, 2010. Inside the vehicle, the officer found Wilson's cell phone. A warrant of arrest was then issued for Wilson.

On October 13, 2010 at approximately 10:00 p.m., in the area of Bluefield Avenue in Turlock, an officer was dispatched on a report of a suspicious person looking into parked vehicles and pulling on the door handles. An officer arrived to investigate and he observed Wilson, who matched the suspect's description, carrying a white bag full of towels away from the location. The owner of a 1999 Toyota Camry reported that the glove box was open and papers were tossed around the front passenger area. Additionally, a bag full of towels had been stolen from the

trunk of the parked Toyota. When the officer tried to contact Wilson, he took off running but was caught after a short foot chase.

The Honorable Scott Steffen sentenced Wilson to three years in state prison.

Stanislaus County residents can report suspected vehicle theft activity to their local law enforcement agency or contact the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT) at: (209) 545-7316.

**IF YOU OBSERVE A THEFT IN PROGRESS, DIAL 911**

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