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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: March 11, 2010

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Re: Joel Inez Gonzales
Auto Thief Sentenced to
16 Months in Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Joel Inez Gonzales, age 30, of Ceres, was convicted on March 11, 2010 of possession of a stolen vehicle. Gonzales had previously been convicted of grand theft for which he was on parole. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On January 29, 2010 at around 2:30 p.m. outside of a carport on Elm Avenue in Modesto, an officer from the Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force (StanCATT) observed an abandoned 2000 maroon Honda Civic that had been reported stolen earlier that day. Inside the carport, the officer located the bed of a pick-up truck that had been stolen on December 4, 2009 out of Tracy. The rest of that truck was later recovered on February 2, 2010 in Modesto. When the officer talked to the homeowner, he indicated that Gonzales had been the only person using the carport.

The Honorable Marie Silveira sentenced Gonzales to sixteen months 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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