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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: January 31, 2011  
Re: People v. Joe O. Teixeira, Maria  
Silveira, Bernadette Silveira, &  
Elmiro O. Belo (Case#1255013)

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that in the case of People v. Joe O. Teixeira, Maria Silveira, Bernadette Silveira and Elmiro O. Belo, the defendants have each entered pleas of no contest to one count of felony grand theft and were sentenced by the Honorable Marie Sovey Silveira, as follows:

<u>Plea Date</u>	<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Sentence</u>
11/30/10	Joe O. Teixeira	Two years state prison, restitution.
01/25/11	Maria Silveira	180 days jail as a term of three years formal probation and restitution.
01/25/11	Bernadette Silveira	365 days jail as a term of three years formal probation and restitution.
01/25/11	Elmiro O. Belo	270 days jail as a term of three years formal probation and restitution.

Over a period of approximately two years, the defendants utilized a scheme to defraud Foster Farms Dairy by manipulating the milk delivery procedures which Foster Farms had in place at its production facility in Modesto to ensure accurate payments to dairies for the milk they deliver. The scheme was uncovered through a joint investigative effort by Foster Farms internal security personnel and the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Rural Crimes Unit, spearheaded by Detective Mike Myers, who caught Defendant Teixeira, the milk hauler for both the Silveira and the Belo dairies, in the act of committing fraud.