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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: July 18, 2011

Re: Luis Angel Hernandez
**Auto Thief Gets
3 Years Prison**

Contact: Carol Shipley

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Luis Angel Hernandez, age 19, of Modesto, was convicted on July 18, 2011 of auto theft. Hernandez also admitted a prior auto theft conviction from May 2010 for which he is currently on probation. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On June 22, 2011 at approximately 4:30 p.m. in the area of Brighton Avenue and Scenic Drive in Modesto, an officer from the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT) saw Hernandez driving a 1995 gold Honda Accord. The car had been reported stolen the day before from the owner's driveway on Zinfandel Avenue in Salida while the owner was asleep. After stopping Hernandez in the vehicle, the officer observed damage to the ignition and steering column. No key was needed to start the car.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Valli Israels sentenced Hernandez 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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