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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: August 16, 2011

Re: Steve Bud Welch

      Auto Thief
      Gets 2 Years

Contact: Carol Shipley

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Steve Bud Welch, age 40, of San Francisco, was convicted on July 26, 2011 of possession of a stolen vehicle. Welch also admitted a prior auto theft conviction from March 2006 for which he was still on parole. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On August 10, 2010 at approximately 3 p.m., an officer from the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT) received a tip that a stolen vehicle was in the garage of a house on Mount Hood Drive in Modesto. When the officer arrived, he located a 1996 green Acura Integra that had been reported stolen two days earlier from the owner's assigned parking space at an apartment complex on Marina Drive in Modesto. Witnesses at the scene stated that Welch had brought the vehicle to the house in order to dismantle it. Welch also told the witnesses that the car was stolen. The officer found a receipt from an auto recycling center in Manteca with Welch's name, driver's license number, and license plate number on it. A warrant of arrest was issued for Welch and he was located two weeks later.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Welch to two years in 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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