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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: February 2, 2012

Re: Alvin Leo Byers, Jr.  
Jury Convicts  
Auto Thief

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**Modesto, California** – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Alvin Leo Byers Jr., age 46, of Modesto was convicted on January 18, 2012 of possession of a stolen vehicle, possession of burglary tools and possession of a hypodermic needle and syringe after a jury trial. The Honorable Ricardo Cordova found true that Byers had served five prior prison terms. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On September 7, 2011 at approximately 3:00 p.m. in the area of Amador Avenue and Eureka Street in Modesto, an officer observed Byers driving a 1987 tan Mazda B2000 pick-up truck that had been reported stolen the day before out of the owner's driveway in the college area of Modesto. When the officer tried to perform a vehicle stop, Byers took evasive action by making several quick turns before he parked in an alleyway and ran off. Within minutes, the officer located Byers and arrested him. In Byers's front pants pocket, the officer found a shaved key as well as the registration for the stolen pick-up truck. The officer then found a hypodermic syringe and needle inside a cell phone case that was clipped onto Byers's belt.

Judge Cordova scheduled a sentencing hearing for March 12, 2012. Byers faces a maximum sentence of nine years in state prison which would be served in the county jail pursuant to the new realignment legislation.