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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 09/27/16
Re: Lua, Cesar

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Cesar Lua, age 39, of Modesto was sentenced on September 8, 2016, to sixteen months in state prison for a conviction of felony driving with a .08% or more alcohol level causing injury in Stanislaus County Superior Court before Judge Marie Silveira.

On June 9, 2016, at about 9:20 p.m., Lua was driving east-bound on East Hatch Road when he rear ended a vehicle that was stopped to make a turn onto Mountain View Road, causing minor to moderate injury to the two occupants of that vehicle. Lua then got out of his vehicle and threw beer cans into a canal and walked off toward an orchard.

Lua slept in the orchard and eventually returned to the scene about two hours after the wreck when a witness contacted the Highway Patrol, leading to his apprehension and arrest.

Lua was investigated for suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol by a member of the California Highway Patrol. Lua was found to have a .23%/.25% alcohol level, by way of two breath tests just after one in the morning.

At the time of this crime Lua had failed to appear in court for two misdemeanor driving with a .08% or more alcohol level cases stemming from March 8, 2015 and March 16, 2015 incidents. He was also convicted of those crimes on September 8, 2016 and will serve 120 day sentences for those offenses while in state prison.

This case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Anthony Colacito working under a grant funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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