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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Date: December 15, 2005

Re: **JURY VERDICT ON JOSE BENITO SALDIVAR**

For more information contact:

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County Assistant District Attorney Carol Shipley announced today that JOSE BENITO SALDIVAR, formerly of Modesto, age 34, was convicted on December 8<sup>th</sup> following a jury trial of Participation in a Street Gang, Auto Theft, Receiving Stolen Property, Evading a Peace Officer, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Felon in Possession of Ammunition, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Special enhancements that alleged he committed the crimes for the benefit of a Criminal Street Gang were all found to be true. The Honorable Nancy Ashley also conducted a Court Trial on the defendant's prior convictions and found that he had three separate strikes for Burglary of an Inhabited Dwelling and also had been sentenced to prison on two prior occasions. Sentencing is scheduled for January 19, 2006. The People will ask that the court to sentence Saldivar to 102 years- to- life in prison due to his status as a Three Striker and Prison Gang Member.

On April 14, 2004, members of the Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force saw Saldivar driving a stolen car. When CHP tried to pull Saldivar over, he engaged them in a high speed chase in a residential neighborhood near Shackelford School. At the time of his apprehension, Saldivar was armed with a loaded semi-automatic firearm, ammunition, and was in possession of narcotics paraphernalia. Saldivar, by his own admission, has been a member of street & prison gangs for the last twenty years. His body is covered with gang tattoos, including one of a gangster with a pistol, and a gang symbol on his forehead, and five inch 14 on the back of his head,

Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner prosecuted the case for the People. Members of the Gang Intelligence Task Force assisted in the prosecution of this case and presented expert evidence to the jury on the gang charges & enhancements.

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