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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: January 23, 2006

Re: Jose Saldivar

Contact: Chief Deputy District

Attorney, Birgit Fladager

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County Assistant District Attorney Carol Shipley announced today that on January 19, 2006, JOSE BENITO SALDIVAR, formerly of Modesto, age 34, was sentenced by the Honorable Nancy Ashley to four consecutive 25 years-to-life terms plus fourteen years for a total sentence of 114 years. Saldivar had been previously convicted by a jury on December 8, 2005 of the following crimes: 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, Possession of a Needle & Syringe & Narcotics Pipe. In addition, the jury found that the enhancements alleging that he committed Auto Theft, Receiving Stolen Property, Evading a Peace Officer, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Felon in Possession of Ammunition, for the benefit of a Criminal Street Gang to be true. The Judge then conducted a Court Trial on the defendant's prior convictions, and found that he had committed three separate strikes for Burglary of an Inhabited Dwelling, and also had been sentenced to prison on two prior occasions. Judge Ashley denied the defendant's motion to have his strikes stricken due to his lengthy criminal history and the danger he poses to society as an armed gang member.

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 & allegations.

The facts as presented at jury trial were that on April 14, 2004 members of the Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force saw Saldivar driving a stolen car. The California Highway Patrol tried to pull him over and he engaged them in a high speed chase in a residential neighborhood near Shackleford School. When he was caught, he was armed with a loaded semi automatic firearm, ammunition, and narcotics paraphernalia. Saldivar, by his own admission, has been a member of street & prison gang for the last twenty years.