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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: August 3rd, 2007

Re: Contractor Sting
Operation

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that on Wednesday, 8-1-07, Stanislaus District Attorney's Office Investigators along with the California State Contractors Board conducted an undercover "sting" operation targeting unlicensed and uninsured contractors in the Stanislaus County area. As a result of the operation, twelve unlicensed contractors were issued citations for various law violations including contracting without a license, illegal advertising and failing to carry workman's compensation insurance. Those cited were given future court dates to appear in Stanislaus County Superior Court for arraignment on the charges. The complete details of the sting operation are not being released in order to protect the viability of future operations.

Legitimate contractors are licensed by the State of California and are required to be bonded. Licensing guarantees that contractors meet minimum standards of knowledge and competency. The bond requirement protects consumers by insuring they would have some recourse to obtain compensation if the contractor fails to provide the service they originally promised to provide.

The following subjects were issued citations relating to unlicensed activities:

Eduardo Salas, 41 years, Modesto
Joseph Ungerbuler, 49 years, Modesto
Bartolo Juarez, 53 years, Modesto
Rosendo Guzman, 39 years, Delhi
Francisco Contreras, 22 years, Modesto
Kelly Harvey, 27 years, Tracy
Byron Ison, 40 years, Tracy
Jose Anaya, 31 years, Manteca
Enrique Marron, 33 years, Stockton
Letisia Zamora, 30 years, Stockton
Curtis Arlt, 51 years, Riverbank
Pedro Garcia, 42 years, Modesto

The District Attorney's Office and Contractor's State License Board would like to remind all

consumers to ask for a contractor's state license number and check it on the Board's website at www.cslb.ca.gov. Several of the cited persons gave the undercover investigators their city business license number and told them that it was their contractor's number. A city business license does not protect the consumer like the state contractor's license. If somebody is using their business license as a contractor's license, report it to the California State Contractors Board at 916-255-2924. Consumers are also encouraged to contact the Better Business Bureau and ascertain the contractor's status with other consumers. You can do this online at www.midcalbbb.org.

Citations such as those issued in these cases are allegations only and all persons cited are presumed innocent until convicted in a court of law.

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