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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 3/29/07
Re: DAVID ARZATE

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that DAVID VALENZUELA ARZATE of Keyes, CA was found guilty yesterday by a Stanislaus County Superior Court Jury of attempted murder with premeditation and personal discharge of a firearm, assault with a firearm, being an active member of a criminal street gang and being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. Deputy District Attorney Wendell Emerson prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

Arzate was accused of shooting at a Ceres man on March 1st, 2006 in a dispute over a woman. The victim was not hit. Arzate was arrested several days later after the victim identified him in a photo lineup. Evidence at trial showed that Arzate was an active member of the Norteno criminal street gang at the time of the shooting.

Arzate returns to court on April 5th, 2007 for a court trial on several prior serious felony convictions. If the prior convictions are found true, he faces the possibility of being sentenced to multiple life terms in state prison.