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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: October 20, 2009

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Re: Francisco Walter Figueroa

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Auto Thief Sentenced to 4 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Francisco Walter Figueroa, age 30, of Modesto, was convicted of auto theft. Figueroa also admitted having served a prior prison term in July 1998 for a domestic violence conviction in Lassen County and another prison term for an assault conviction in April 2002 out of Shasta County. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On May 22, 2009 at approximately 10 a.m. at C&C Recovery in Modesto, Figueroa test drove a 1997 black Volkswagen Jetta and never returned with the vehicle. On May 25, 2009, employees of C&C Recovery observed Figueroa with the stolen vehicle and called the police. The license plate on the vehicle had been switched, but the officers were able to identify the vehicle based on the vehicle identification number (VIN).

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Ricardo Cordova sentenced Figueroa to four years in state prison.

Stanislaus County residents can report suspected vehicle theft activity to their local law enforcement agency or contact the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (STANCATT) at: (209) 545-7316.

IF YOU OBSERVE A THEFT IN PROGRESS, DIAL 911

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