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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: February 2, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Gabriel Guadalupe Velasquez

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Auto Thief Sentenced to 4 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Gabriel Guadalupe Velasquez, age 26, of Salida, was convicted of possession of stolen property and possession of a stolen vehicle. The defendant also admitted a prior auto theft conviction for which he served a term of imprisonment and for which he is currently on parole. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events which occurred on January 8, 2009 when the defendant was driving a stolen 2005 gray Toyota Camry which had been reported stolen on December 21, 2008 out of Modesto. Officers also observed stolen California identification cards, drivers' licenses, birth certificates and bank cards inside the stolen car.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable John Whiteside sentenced Chavez 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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