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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: October 28, 2009
Re: Seberino Villareal III
13 years prison for Vehicular
Manslaughter

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Seberino Villareal, III, age 42, of Modesto, was convicted on October 28, 2009 of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and admitted three enhancements charging that he committed bodily injury to more than one victim. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey M. Laugero prosecuted the case for the People.

On February 24, 2007 at 5:40 pm, Villareal was driving while intoxicated. His blood alcohol level was .10. As he drove westbound on Paradise Avenue, Villareal made an unsafe turning movement and crossed the east-west crosswalk at an intersection. Villareal's Dodge pickup struck two pedestrians in the crosswalk, causing injuries to both. One of the pedestrians suffered a broken hip. Villareal continued westbound, crashing through the front doors of the Stop-n-Save Market at 903 S. Jefferson St. Three people in the store were injured, including the store owner, Harbans Singh, and his two family members. Mr. Singh was pinned under the vehicle as rescue workers attempted to free him. Mr. Singh was eventually pulled from the wreckage and transported to the hospital where he was treated for numerous injuries. On March 18, 2007, Mr. Singh succumbed to his injuries.

Upon entry of the guilty plea, the Honorable Judge Zeff sentenced Villareal to 13 years in state prison.

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