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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: June 22, 2010

Re: People v. Brian Joseph Gomes

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced that Brian Joseph Gomes, 35, of Turlock, was convicted of Manufacturing Methamphetamine, Negligent Discharge of a Firearm, and Assault Likely to Cause Great Bodily Injury. Gomes also admitted a sentencing enhancement for a prior conviction for manufacturing methamphetamine.

On May 12, 2009, agents with the Merced/Mariposa High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force served a search warrant at 336 Locust Street in the city of Turlock. Agents found Brian Gomes living in a travel trailer on the property. Inside the trailer, agents located numerous items associated with the manufacturing of methamphetamine. Agents concluded that the clandestine methamphetamine lab was capable of producing one to two pounds of finished methamphetamine.

On February 7, 2010, Turlock police officers responded to a call of a gunshot at 950 W. Zeering Road. Witnesses identified Brian Gomes as the suspect who had fled the scene after firing a semi-automatic firearm in the direction of the apartment complex. The officers were unable to locate Gomes after an extensive search of the area surrounding the apartment complex. Gomes was out on bail at the time of the shooting.

On March 29, 2010, Officer Carlos Quiroz of the Ceres Police Department saw Brian Gomes driving a vehicle in the area of 7th Street in Ceres. Officer Quiroz was aware of the outstanding arrest warrant for Gomes. As Officer Quiroz pulled his vehicle next to Gomes's vehicle, Gomes accelerated and caused a minor collision between his vehicle and that of Officer Quiroz. A chase ensued and eventually Gomes was captured.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Donald Shaver sentenced Gomes to ten years in state prison.