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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: March 1, 2011

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Jessica Violeta Alvares  
Auto Thief  
Gets 2 Years

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jessica Violeta Alvares, age 25, of Atwater, was convicted on March 1, 2011 of auto theft and possession of methamphetamine. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On November 12, 2010 at approximately 11 p.m. in the area of S. First Street in Turlock, an officer observed Alvares driving her boyfriend's 2004 silver Toyota Camry after he had reported it stolen. Alvares took the vehicle one week earlier from her boyfriend's driveway in Dos Palos in Fresno County and had not returned it. A search incident to arrest revealed a baggie of methamphetamine in Alvares's pocket. Alvares was released on her own recognizance pending the outcome of the case.

On February 7, 2011 at approximately 9:30 p.m. in the area of Main Street in Turlock, an officer observed Alvares driving a 1998 black Dodge Durango that had been reported stolen earlier that day out of Merced. After performing a traffic stop, Alvares claimed that a friend gave her the vehicle, but she had no contact information for this friend. When the officer searched Alvares following her arrest, he found her in possession of a syringe.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable John Whiteside sentenced Alvares to two years in the California Rehabilitation Center.

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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