



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: September 1, 2017  
Re: Noe Roberto Fuentes  
Felony DUI conviction & prison sentence

### For More Information Contact:

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Noe Roberto Fuentes, 49, of Modesto, California, was convicted August 24<sup>th</sup> of driving under the influence, driving with his blood alcohol level above 0.08%, felony evading a peace officer and driving with a suspended license.

On December 10, 2016, officers from the California Highway Patrol saw Fuentes driving over 90 miles an hour on Highway 99 in wet conditions. When they tried to pull him over, Fuentes ignored the patrol car emergency lights and siren and drove off, leading the officers on a high-speed pursuit while weaving all over the roadway. Fuentes eventually left the freeway driving over 70 miles per hour onto Briggsmore Avenue in Modesto. He eluded police after running three stop lights at high speed.

Officers later responded to Fuente's home. He was found sitting alone in his car and arrested. Fuentes admitted fleeing from the officers because "his head was messed up." He smelled of alcohol and displayed objective symptoms of intoxication. A chemical test showed Fuente's blood alcohol level was 0.22/0.21%, over twice the legal limit.

On August 24, 2017, a Stanislaus County jury found Fuentes guilty of driving under the influence, driving with a blood alcohol level above 0.08%, evading a peace officer, and driving with a suspended license. The jury also found true an enhancement that Fuentes's blood alcohol level was over 0.15% at the time of the crimes.

Fuentes has five prior felony DUI convictions from 1987, 1988, 1995, 2001, and 2010, for which he served prison terms and a conviction for assault with a deadly weapon from 1987 which constitutes a "strike" under California's Three Strikes Law.

Fuentes returns to court on September 5<sup>th</sup> for a court trial on his prior convictions before Judge Rick Distaso. Sentencing is currently set for October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Fuentes faces a maximum potential punishment of 11 years and 4 months in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney Bianca Yip prosecuted the case for the People. Her position is funded by a grant provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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