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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: December 16, 2008

Assistant District Attorney

Re: **Matthew Fann**

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Auto Thief Sentenced to Four Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Matthew Fann, age 30, of Escalon, was sentenced by the Honorable Timothy Salter to four years in state prison after he pled guilty to auto theft and being a felon in possession of ammunition. The defendant also admitted a prior prison commitment for auto theft and possession of methamphetamine from September 2004. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events which occurred on November 22, 2008 when the defendant stole a white 2002 Ford pick-up truck. After a brief pursuit, Fann jumped out of the truck and was caught a short distance later. A 12 gauge slug shotgun shell was also found inside the vehicle.

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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