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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: August 7, 2009
Re: Colleen Garcia – Failure to return to court
nets 5 years in state prison

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Colleen Garcia, age 52, of Tracy, was sentenced on August 4, 2009 to five years in state prison for petty theft with a prior theft conviction.

On December 21, 2007, Garcia went into T.J. Max on Sisk Road in Modesto and stole approximately \$60.00 worth of merchandise. She was convicted of petty theft with prior theft convictions in January 2008. She was originally sentenced to two years in state prison, but given a stay of execution of one week. This stay was conditioned upon her admitting having previously served three prior prison terms which would be stricken if she returned to court as ordered. However, Garcia failed to come to court as ordered. While absconding, Garcia committed a new offense, a second degree burglary in Santa Clara County, where she was convicted and sentenced to two years in state prison.

Garcia was returned to Stanislaus County from Valley State Prison for Women in Chowchilla, and resentenced for the theft case. Because she violated her conditional stay, the Honorable Donald E. Shaver sentenced Garcia to five years in state prison, rather than the two years previously given.

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