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**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: July 8, 2009

Re: John Paul Mason  
Auto Thief Sentenced to  
2 Years Prison

Contact: Carol Shipley

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**Modesto, California** – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that John Paul Mason, age 36, of Newman, was sentenced by the Honorable Timothy Salter to two years in state prison after he pled guilty to auto theft and admitted a previous auto theft conviction stemming from a December 2006 case for which he is currently on probation. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on June 17, 2009 at approximately 4:30 p.m. in the area of Crowslanding Road and Carpenter Road near the San Joaquin river. Officers of the Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force (STANCATT) observed Mason towing a stolen black cargo trailer. At Mason's residence, officers located a stolen 2002 white Yamaha ATV that had been reported stolen the day before out of Turlock. Mason had the ignition key to the Quad ATV in his pocket.

This is Mason's first commitment to state prison.

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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