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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: April 6, 2009
Re: Probation Violations Resulting
In State Prison Sentences

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that the following defendants violated probation and were sentenced to State Prison.

James Raul Fitch was found to be in violation of the terms of his probation by failing to report to probation and failing to complete substance abuse treatment. Fitch was originally convicted on October 26, 2007 of possession of methamphetamine and having a prior conviction for which he served a term in state prison. Fitch was placed on three years felony probation. This is Fitch's third violation of that probation. Upon the admission, the Honorable Susan D. Siefkin sentenced Fitch to two years and four months in state prison.

Eric Quinonez Vielma, age 39, of Modesto, was sentenced to two years in state prison for violating the terms of his felony probation by failing to report to his probation officer in two separate cases on March 27, 2009. This is Vielma's third violation of probation. The first case was a second degree burglary stemming from an August 2005 arrest. The second case was a possession of a concealed dagger that occurred in September 2005. The defendant had previously been convicted of a felony charge that falls under California's "Three Strikes" law and has served four prior prison terms. Upon the admission of the violation, the Honorable Donald Shaver sentenced Vielma to two years in prison on each case. The sentences will run concurrently with each other.

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