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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: May 10, 2010

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Re: Ruben Ayala
Auto Thief Sentenced to
Two Years in State Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Ruben Ayala, age 27, of Patterson was convicted of auto theft and transportation of methamphetamine. Ayala is currently on probation stemming from a conviction for possession of methamphetamine from December 2008 out of San Diego County. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On March 3, 2010 at approximately 9:00 p.m. in the 600 block of Periwinkle Drive in Patterson, officers from the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT) observed Ayala driving a 1991 gray Nissan Sentra that had been reported stolen that day out of Los Banos. Ayala drove the vehicle to a self-serve car wash and parked it in one of the stalls. After officers made contact with Ayala, they found almost two grams of methamphetamine that had been heat sealed in a plastic bag. The officers also located a shaved key that was used to start the stolen car.

The Honorable Thomas Zeff sentenced Ayala to two years in 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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