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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: October 15, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: James Werner Sass, Jr.
Auto Thief Gets
6 Years Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that James Werner Sass, Jr., age 29, of Turlock, was convicted on October 15, 2010 of attempted auto theft and admitted a violation of probation stemming from four prior auto theft convictions. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On July 20, 2010 at approximately 3:30 a.m., a deputy was dispatched to a report of two masked men inside the gated yard of a closed business on Yosemite Boulevard in Waterford. The caller to 911 had observed the two prowlers jumping over the fence and tampering with the closed business' equipment. When the deputy arrived, Sass was inside the gated lot next to the company's utility truck which had its doors opened. When Sass saw the deputy, he tried to run but was caught a short distance away. Inside the utility truck, the deputy observed extensive damage to the ignition.

The Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Sass to six years in state prison.

Sass's partner had previously pled guilty and received 1 ½ 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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