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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WOODLAND GANG MEMBER CONVICTED OF ROBBERY AND
ATTEMPTING TO DISSUADE A WITNESS

(Woodland, CA) – March 23, 2010 District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on March 22, 2010, a Yolo County jury convicted 22-year-old Woodland resident Anthony Vasquez of robbery and attempting to dissuade a witness.

On May 5, 2008, Vasquez, a Norteno gang member, made arrangements to buy marijuana from the victim. When the victim arrived to meet him for the sale, Vasquez got into the back seat of the victim's car. As the victim began to show the marijuana to Vasquez, Vasquez grabbed the marijuana and shot the victim in the chest from the back seat. Vasquez then returned to a party he had been at earlier. The victim underwent hours of surgery to repair damage from the bullet that pierced his lung. Authorities looked for Vasquez for six months before finally finding him hiding in a local hotel room.

On July 4, 2009, days before a scheduled preliminary hearing in his case, a correctional officer at the jail found a letter written by Vasquez. The letter was smuggled out of the jail by an inmate who was being released from custody. In the letter Vasquez admitted shooting the victim and he also asked that some of his "homies" let witnesses know that they should not attend his trial or that they should say that he was not there at the time of the shooting.

During trial, the jury heard from several witnesses who stated that they did not want to testify against Vasquez and endure the intimidating presence of defendant's family and friends throughout the trial. The jury found Vasquez guilty of robbery with intentional use and discharge of a firearm causing great bodily injury, assault with a firearm causing great bodily injury and attempting to dissuade a witness which was committed for the benefit of a criminal street gang.

Vasquez will be back in court on March 25, 2010 before the Honorable Timothy Fall to set a date for judgment and sentencing. Vasquez faces a sentence of life in prison.

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