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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Woodland Gang Member Sentenced to 38 Years to Life in Prison**

(Woodland, CA) – June 8, 2010- District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on June 4, 2010, the Honorable Judge Timothy Fall of the Yolo County Superior Court sentenced Anthony Vasquez of Woodland to 38 years and 8 months to life in state prison. Earlier this year a Yolo County jury convicted the 22-year-old Vasquez, a member of the Norteno Criminal Street Gang, of robbery and attempting to dissuade a witness.

On May 5, 2008, Vasquez 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.

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. The jury also found that the crimes were committed for the benefit of a criminal street gang.

District Attorney Jeff Reisig commended the efforts of the Woodland Police Department and prosecution team. "Law enforcement did an outstanding job catching this dangerous gang member. We will remain committed to aggressively prosecuting violent gangsters such as this and seeking maximum prison sentences."

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