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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** May 24, 2011      **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney  
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**Esparto Youth Football Coach Convicted of Molesting Young Girl**

**Juan Hernandez agreed to serve 21 years in prison for child molest and possession of child pornography**

**(Woodland, CA) – May 24, 2011-** Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced today that 37-year-old Woodland man Juan Hernandez pled no contest to two counts of child molestation, possession of child pornography, and a misdemeanor count of “annoying or harassing a minor.” Hernandez also admitted a prior strike conviction from 1995 for “willfully discharging a firearm in a grossly negligent manner.” As part of the plea bargain, Hernandez agreed to serve 21 years and four months in state prison.

Hernandez was a youth football coach in Esparto, California. The 12-year-old victim in this case was a family friend and Hernandez coached the victim’s brothers. In the fall, 2010 while the girl was at his house, Hernandez sexually assaulted her. He had purchased her a cell phone and sent her inappropriate text messages. The victim told her mother.

The Woodland Police Department opened an investigation. At that time, Hernandez was on probation for possession of stolen property. A search of his computer revealed evidence of child pornography. The Woodland Police Department referred the case to the District Attorney’s computer forensic division which is supervised by Lieutenant Pete Martin. Lieutenant Martin and his team analyzed the computer and found over 100 child pornographic photographs and 86 child pornography films. During his analysis, Martin saw a photograph of a man’s hand touching a child’s private area. Investigators took photographs of Hernandez’ hands in court. A comparison of the photographs matched Hernandez’ hand to the hand of the man molesting the girl in the photograph on Hernandez’ computer.

After analyzing Hernandez’ computer, a second child victim was identified. While analyzing a cell phone belonging to Hernandez, Lt. Martin found that Hernandez had sent

inappropriate text messages to a 10-year-old girl. This resulted in the misdemeanor conviction for “annoying or harassing a minor.”

Deputy District Attorney Carolyn Palumbo prosecuted the case and commended the work of the Lieutenant Martin and his computer forensics team. “What started off as a case involving one serious act of child molestation exploded into multiple molestations and possession of hundreds of images of child pornography,” said Palumbo. “This was like a CSI TV show, but unfortunately, we are dealing with the sad and scary state of reality.”

The Honorable Timothy Fall of the Yolo County Superior Court accepted Hernandez’ no contest pleas and will sentence him to state prison on July 5, 2011.

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