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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California Supreme Court Reinstates Woodland Fake Bomb Conviction

California Attorney General persuades Supreme Court Justices to vote unanimously and reinstate the conviction and Three Strikes sentence

(Woodland, CA) – August 8, 2012- District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that this past Monday the California Supreme Court issued a unanimous opinion reinstating the conviction of Woodland man Barry Turnage.

A Yolo County jury convicted the 66-year-old Turnage in July of 2008 for leaving a fake bomb at the Yolo County Communications Center in September of 2006. The crime is a felony and due to his violent history Turnage was sentenced to life in prison under California's Three Strikes Law. In separate cases Turnage had been convicted of armed robbery and assault with a firearm for shooting a rifle into a Berkeley city fire truck.

The felony fake bomb conviction had originally been overturned by the 3rd District Court of Appeal for what they wrote was a Constitutional Equal Protection violation comparing the fake bomb statute to other laws in California.

The California Supreme Court unanimously ruled that there was no Constitutional Equal Protection violation and reinstated the conviction. The California Attorney General's Office handled the appeal. District Attorney Reisig praised the hard work and tenacity of the Attorney General's Office. "We are especially grateful for the efforts of Deputy Attorney General Rachelle Newcomb who fought hard and won this case," said Reisig. "Yolo County is now safer thanks to her work."

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