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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 19, 2012 **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney
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Judge Sentences Woodland Gang Members Life in Prison

A jury had convicted the defendants of gang crimes and attempted murder

(Woodland, CA) – December 19, 2012 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on December 18, 2012, Yolo County Superior Court Judge Stephen Mock sentenced defendants Rolando Arismendez, 34, Juan Reyes, 21, and German Quezada, 19, to life in state prison for attempted murder and gang enhancements. On October 30, 2012, a Yolo County Jury convicted the defendants of the charges leading to the life sentences.

On November 16, 2011, Arismendez, a validated gang member, provided guns, a car and a driver to defendants Reyes and Quezada, also gang members. Their plan was to carry out a murder of a resident of Donnelly Circle in Woodland. After driving by to scout the location, the gang members returned to the location a second time and began firing on the victim, who was standing in front of the residence. Although the bullets missed the victim, one of the bullets entered the bedroom of the home and passed through a child's playpen before lodging in a mattress. While fleeing the location the defendants crashed their car in a nearby park and left the scene on foot. Woodland Police recovered two of the three handguns used and arrested defendant Reyes running from the scene of the crash. They arrested defendant Quezada at a Woodland hospital when he arrived for treatment for gunshot wounds that were apparently self inflicted during the shooting. The defendants' cell phones and other evidence established that Arismendez had supplied the guns and the car used to commit the shooting. During the trial, accomplices to the shooting testified to a portion of the evidence.

In sentencing Reyes to a life term, Judge Mock stated that the jury convicted him of attempted murder and the gang enhancement, "rightfully so." Judge Mock also said there was "mountain of evidence," other than the accomplice testimony, that connected Quezada to the shooting. Judge Mock sentenced both Reyes and Quezada to 20 years in state prison as well as a term of 15 year to life. Judge Mock sentenced Arismendez to 29 years in state prison and seven years to life. All three defendants will be eligible for parole.

District Attorney Jeff Reisig stated, "California law refers to gang crimes as street terrorism and the Legislature has set the penalties for gang crimes very high. Cases like this exemplify the serious danger posed to our communities by such criminals."

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