



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

301 SECOND STREET - WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA 95695 - 530.666.8180 - FAX 530.666.8185
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 8, 2013 **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney
Phone: Jonathan.raven@yolocounty.org

**Man Convicted of Growing over 500 Marijuana Plants
with a street value of up to \$500,000.**

(Woodland, CA) – February 8, 2013 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on January 24, 2013, a Yolo County jury found 57-year-old Fidel Alvarez guilty of Cultivation of Marijuana and Possession for Sale of Marijuana. In addition, the jury found that he was armed with a firearm during the commission of these crimes.

On September 6, 2012, agents from the Yolo County Narcotics Enforcement Team and the Mountain and Valley Marijuana Investigations Team discovered a marijuana grow one third of a mile off Highway 16 in Yolo County on public lands. The marijuana grow contained over 500 plants that were only a few days away from harvest. Agents discovered Alvarez walking through the field of plants dressed in camouflage clothing. Alvarez was carrying a .22 caliber rifle with a homemade flash suppressor.

Alvarez admitted to agents that he had been hired by drug dealers in Richmond, CA to come and tend to the marijuana grow. He stated that he was going to receive a percentage of the profits from the sale of the marijuana. Experts testified that the plants would produce somewhere between 250 and 500 pounds of marijuana which would have a street value of \$250,000 to \$500,000.

“These marijuana grows on public lands are dangerous and the cause of numerous acts of violence across the state,” said Deputy District Attorney Michael Vroman who prosecuted the case. District Attorney Reisig commented on the environmental impact. “The toll these marijuana grows have on the surrounding environment due to chemicals and fertilizers is immeasurable,” said Reisig.

Alvarez will be sentenced on February 25, 2013 by the Honorable Timothy L. Fall who presided over the trial. Alvarez faces up to four years in prison.

###