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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GANG MEMBERS CONVICTED OF AMTRAK ATTACK**

Woodland, 11/13/08 – A Yolo County jury convicted four members of the Broderick Boys criminal street gang of crimes involving a 2006 attack on Amtrak train employees. Austen Nunes, 19; Paliton Nunes, 20; and Orlando Ramos, 16, all residents of West Sacramento, were convicted of eleven felony charges including attempted manslaughter, assault with deadly weapons on train employees, great bodily injury, throwing an object at a train, vandalism and belonging to a street gang, plus two misdemeanor charges of assault on public transportation property. Austen Nunes was also convicted of attempted robbery. All three defendants face maximum sentences between 14 and 15 years in state prison.

Daniel Bonge, 19, also of West Sacramento, was convicted of 10 felony charges including assault with deadly weapons on train employee, great bodily injury, throwing an object at a train, vandalism and belonging to a street gang, plus the two misdemeanor assaults on public transportation property. He faces 13 years in prison. Robert Reynolds, 17, of West Sacramento, was acquitted of all charges.

The crimes occurred on April 16, 2006, in West Sacramento. All five defendants, who are members of the Broderick Boys criminal street gang, had spent the day partying and drinking. After they ran out of alcohol, they went to the Lighthouse Market in West Sacramento and stole five cases of beer. They took the beer across the railroad tracks and continued drinking. At 10:30 p.m., as an Amtrak Capitol Corridor train was traveling through West Sacramento, one of the defendants stood on the tracks in front of the train, causing it to slow down. Another defendant hurled a rock at the engineer, striking him in the head. When the engineer got off the train to disperse the trespassers, two of the defendants began to pelt him with rocks. At about the same time, a third defendant came up behind the engineer with a large rock in his hand. The engineer asked him if he was going to throw a punch. When this perpetrator refused to answer and kept approaching him, the engineer, fearing for his safety and the safety of the passengers and crew, punched the suspect in the face. The conductor then came off the train with a fire extinguisher and sprayed the assailants to get them to leave. Immediately, the defendants

began attacking both the conductor and the engineer. The conductor managed to retreat back into the train and the engineer found himself surrounded by all five defendants. After he asked them, "Don't kill me", they proceeded to strike him in the head with rocks, the fire extinguisher, and a bottle of Grey Goose Vodka. One of the defendants then demanded the engineer's wallet and cell phone. The attackers were unsuccessful at getting the engineer's property and fled the scene.

Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig stated, "Once again we are faced with a horrific example of the danger posed by criminal street gang members when they act in concert against persons and property. We are thankful that the jury recognized this fact and convicted the defendants. Our office will continue to prosecute, to the fullest extent, gang members who brutally attack our citizenry."

Yolo County Superior Court Judge Timothy Fall, who presided over the trial, denied the four convicted defendants bail. The sentencing date is set for December 15, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in Department 2 of the Yolo County Court. For further information, contact Ann Hurd, Chief Deputy District Attorney at (530) 666-8180.

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