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PRESS RELEASE

**Convicted Gang Member On the Run
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Jacinto Jose Valdovino, a certified Norteno gang member, was convicted by a Shasta jury on November 19, 2010 of attempted premeditated murder, kidnapping, assault with a firearm and participation in a street gang which are all felonies. Nine separate special allegations were also found to be true, including one prior strike conviction.

Valdovino was not in custody during the trial, but did appear in court for his trial. However, on November 18, 2010, just prior to closing arguments, Valdovino “disappeared” and was not present in court. Despite his absence, the trial continued. Valdovino was not present when the jury announced its verdicts of guilty. We believe he has left the area and remains on the run today. Once caught, he faces up to 107 years to life in state prison. In addition, his failure to appear in court is a new criminal violation for which he can be prosecuted.

Valdovino was not in custody during the trial because he had posted the \$500,000 bail set by a Shasta County Superior Court judge. The premium or cost for a \$500,000 bail bond is \$50,000. The money put up as the cost of the bond, is non-refundable. In other words if you put up \$50,000 cash the bondsman puts up the \$500,000 bond and you get out of custody. Even if you show up for all court appearances, you do not get your \$50,000 back.

Upon a showing the bail money is illegally obtained the court can order a defendant back into custody. Before Valdovino’s trial started he was released from custody after posting a \$500,000 bail bond. After describing himself as an unemployed student who was not attending school and with no means of support, Valdovino, a certified Norteno gang member, posted the \$500,000 bond and was released. This means he paid \$50,000 for the bond.

Not long after, Redding police stopped Valdovino in his Jaguar automobile in Redding with \$3,000 in his pocket in mostly twenty dollar bills. Gang experts described this amount of cash as being available to high level gang members.

The purpose of bail in the first place is to create a stake in attendance for defendants so they won't abscond, the theory being that if they have their legitimate hard earned money at stake they will appear in court as promised when released. When money is easily obtained through gang activity as prosecutors urged here, no incentive exists for a defendant to show up in court.

When prosecutors discovered that Valdovino had bailed out and had all that cash though unemployed, they sought help from the court by presenting the above information and asking for a warrant of arrest to take him back into custody and examine the source of his bail. Redding Police gang investigators reported that Judge Greg Gaul concluded there was insufficient information produced by the District Attorney to bring Valdovino back into custody and refused to issue a warrant or to order an examination of the bail he had posted. As predicted by the DA's office, on the eve of the jury's verdict Valdovino, according to sources, fled the county headed to Mexico. In his absence the jury deliberating the facts of his case found him guilty of the listed crimes. Gang officers and investigators of the Redding Police Department and Shasta County District Attorney prosecutors did what they could to try to take this dangerous gang member off the streets of Redding and California. Valdovino remains at large.

For further information, contact Assistant District Attorney Robert Maloney at 245-6310.