



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SHASTA

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**Amadeo Vega Paniagua Convicted by Jury of Transporting Over
1 Kilogram of Methamphetamine through Shasta County.**

July 17, 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Deputy District Attorney: Laura Smith
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Today, a Shasta County jury found Amadeo Vega Paniagua, 31, of Ivanhoe, California guilty of two felony counts and a related enhancement in connection with a traffic stop that yielded over 1.15 kilograms of methamphetamine on July 21, 2010. The defendant was found guilty of Possession for Sale of a Controlled Substance and Transportation for Sale of a Controlled Substance between Non-Contiguous Counties. The jury also found true an enhancement alleging that the net weight of methamphetamine possessed and transported for sale by the defendant was in excess of 1 kilogram.

Evidence presented at trial showed that on July 21, 2010, Paniagua was stopped on northbound Interstate 5 by an Agent with the California Multijurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team. During the stop, the Agent developed suspicions that the defendant was involved in the trafficking of narcotics, based on the defendant's behavior and inconsistencies in his claims regarding the nature of his trip and who owned the vehicle he was driving. Maximus, a drug detection dog, alerted to the rear passenger seat area of the vehicle, and a further search yielded three large packages of methamphetamine hidden in a false compartment in the rear driver's side seatback.

Following re-alignment, Paniagua faces a potential total sentence of twelve years and eight months in county jail at his sentencing, scheduled for August 27, 2012, before the Honorable Judge Bradley Boeckman.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Laura Smith and investigated by Agent Chris McQuillan of the Domestic Highway Enforcement Team & California Multijurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team.