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Aguilar to Serve Over 6 Years in Prison for Stolen Vehicle Pursuit
People v. Jesse Aguilar: Kern County Superior Court Case SF021409A

(Shafter) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant sentencing today. On September 19, 2024, the Honorable Judge Marcos Camacho sentenced Jesse Aguilar to 6 years, 8 months in prison. The hearing took place in the Kern County Superior Court – Shafter Branch.

The sentencing followed a jury conviction on August 1, 2024, in which Aguilar was found guilty by a Kern County Jury of Receipt of a Stolen Vehicle, Driving a Stolen Vehicle, Attempted Theft of a Vehicle, and Vandalism. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Joe L. Alindajao.

Aguilar was also recently convicted of two prior strikes and has two pending cases in Kern and Kings County for the same conduct.

On January 1, 2024, a Deputy was patrolling at the intersection of Cotton and Willow Streets in Buttonwillow when he observed a suspect vehicle with an inoperable brake light. The Deputy proceeded to get behind the vehicle when the vehicle began to accelerate away at a high rate of speed, eventually losing visual on the vehicle.

The Deputy then responded to reports of a crashed vehicle in a canal, where he saw the overturned car and Aguilar emerging from the water. Despite orders to stop, Aguilar fled into nearby orchards. Concerned for the safety of potential passengers, the Deputy entered the cold January water but found no one inside. About 20 minutes later, deputies received another 911 call from a location 1.5 miles away, where Aguilar attempted to steal a truck and attached trailer. Although a failed attempt, Aguilar managed to damage the vehicle's ignition and steering column.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “This sentence not only holds Aguilar accountable for his actions, but it also reinforces the principle that our community will not tolerate behavior that endangers others. I’m grateful for the brave Deputy and proactive residents who helped us achieve justice.”

Jesse Aguilar:

