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July 20, 2007

## Delhi Man Convicted of Drug Sales and Transportation

A Merced County jury on Friday convicted John DomingoVieira of Delhi of three felonies and a misdemeanor involving the possession, transportation and sale of methamphetamine stemming from an arrest earlier this year, according to Deputy District Attorney Steve Slocum, who prosecuted the case.

Vieira, 49, was arrested by Merced County Sheriff's deputies on April 26<sup>th</sup> after they found methamphetamine in his sock. A subsequent search of Vieira's truck revealed a small digital scale, numerous small, unused plastic baggies and dimethyl sulfone, a substance drug dealers mix with methamphetamine to increase the volume of their product, Slocum said.

The ten women, two men jury deliberated about four hours before returning with their verdicts. A second part of the trial will determine if Vieira had been previously convicted of a similar offense. Vieira, who faces over four years in state prison as a result of Friday's conviction, could have an additional three years tacked on to that sentence if the judge finds that he suffered a similar conviction, according to Slocum.

The trial, which lasted three days, was tried before visiting Superior Court Judge David Minier. Slocum credited the investigative work of Merced Sheriff's Deputies Vince Gallagher and Micah Brawley as instrumental in the successful prosecution.

"There wasn't a lot of dope in this case, about one gram of methamphetamine, but the D.A.'s office is dedicated to prosecuting all drug dealers, regardless of where they sit on the food chain," Slocum said.

The court will begin hearing evidence of the prior conviction on Monday.