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December 9, 2011

RESCHEDULED PRESS CONFERENCE ON MAJOR BUST OF VIOLENT MEXICAN DRUG CARTEL OPERATING IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

A press conference on a major Central Valley law enforcement operation targeting La Familia Michoacana has been rescheduled for 2 p.m. Monday, December 12, 2011 at the Merced County District Attorney's office, 550 W. Main St. in Merced. The press conference had previously been scheduled for Nov. 30th, but was postponed as more information was being obtained.

La Familia Michoacana is a violent Mexican drug cartel that has been linked to a rash of kidnappings, beheadings and drug crimes in Mexico in recent years. Last month, 24 people in the Central Valley were arrested and 10 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, 14 pounds of methamphetamine in powdered form, 30 gallons of methamphetamine solution, 17 firearms, including assault weapons, and more than $100,000 were seized in a series of raids conducted in recent weeks by agents from the state Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement working with agents from the Merced and Madera narcotics and gang task forces and the Merced/Mariposa HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) task force.

Central Valley law enforcement leaders will discuss information they've obtained which indicates that La Familia Michoacana is increasing its illegal activities in California. Also on display at the press conference will be two of the so-called "trap" vehicles used by members and associates of La Familia Michoacana to transport drugs and money in elaborate hidden compartments, according to Merced County District Attorney Larry D. Morse II.

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