

Stanislaus County **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Adam Christianson
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE 12-06-10
TIME 11:20 AM**

TRAFFIC STOP YIELDS DRUG SEIZURE & FELONY ARREST

Hughson, CA – Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department patrol deputies, who were assigned to a special burglary suppression assignment with the Hughson Police Services, arrested 23-year-old Modesto resident Gonzalo Vega early Monday morning for several drug-related felonies.

As part of an effort to take a proactive approach in order to reduce the number of residential and commercial property crimes in town, deputies were patrolling near the intersection of Hatch Road and Gilbert Road at approximately 12:11 a.m., when they noticed a 2000 Chevrolet driven by Vega running stop signs and speeding.

Sheriff's deputies made a traffic stop, contacted the driver and could immediately smell the odor of what they believed to be marijuana coming from the car's passenger compartment. A standardized records check revealed that Vega was driving on a suspended driver's license, and a black-colored substance believed to be hash, or concentrated cannabis, could also clearly be seen inside of the car.

Dep. Dustin Bruley, who is a certified narcotics-detecting K-9 handler, was able to respond to the location of the traffic stop to provide assistance with his K-9, "Anna". Bruley and "Anna" have been a drug-detection K-9 team for the past five-years. K-9 "Anna" is certified every year through the California Narcotic K-9 Association to detect the odors of various controlled substances.

As the preliminary investigation continued, "Anna" helped uncover numerous bags of hash and approximately 2.15-pounds of marijuana buds. Vega could not produce a medicinal marijuana card, nor could he offer any other lawful reason for possessing the contraband, either. The drugs were seized, Vega's car was towed, and he was arrested without incident.

Vega is being held at the Stanislaus County Men's Jail, where he will await arraignment on violation of several felony charges including transportation, sales, and possession of concentrated cannabis. He was also charged with traffic related offenses including failure to stop at a stop sign and driving on a suspended license. Vega's booking photograph, as well as a picture of the seized narcotics, have been provided for the reader's convenience. He is being held in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

Chief Janet Rasmussen praised the department's deputies by saying, "This is just another example of good police work and the significant role our K-9 Unit plays in the apprehension of drug traffickers."

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Luke Schwartz (209) 652-0211 (tschwartz@stanislaussheriff.com).

