

United States Department of Justice

For Immediate Release

May 17, 2010 **United States Attorney's Office**
Eastern District of California

Fremont Drug Dealer Sentenced to 20 Years

SACRAMENTO—United States Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner announced that United States District Judge William B. Shubb sentenced Jose Villaseñor, 35, of Fremont, today to 20 years in federal prison to be followed by five years of supervised release for a large-scale cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana trafficking conspiracy. Villaseñor was convicted following a jury trial on November 12, 2009.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the FBI's Stockton Violent Crime Task Force, the San Joaquin County Metropolitan Narcotics Task Force (METRO), and the Stockton Police Department into the activities of the Mario DIAZ Drug Trafficking Organization (DIAZ DTO) that distributed large amounts of illegal controlled substances, including methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, and ecstasy throughout the Eastern and Northern Districts of California with supply lines from Mexico and distribution channels reaching to other United States cities, including Warren, Ohio and Atlanta, Georgia. The DIAZ DTO operated under the umbrella of NUESTRA FAMILIA (the NF), a violent Hispanic prison gang based within the California prison system whose members exert control over street-level Norteño gang members engaged in drug trafficking and violent crime.

This case was part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) effort. OCDETF was established in 1982 to conduct comprehensive, multilevel attacks on major drug trafficking and money laundering organizations. OCDETF's principal mission is to identify, disrupt, and dismantle the most serious drug trafficking and money laundering organizations and those primarily responsible for the nation's drug supply. Assistant United States Attorneys Jason Hitt and William S. Wong are prosecuting the case.

According to the evidence at trial, between August 25, 2005 and June 27, 2007, Villaseñor distributed more than six pounds of methamphetamine, more than 16 kilograms of cocaine, and delivered five pounds of marijuana to an apartment in Salinas. During the drug trafficking conspiracy, the defendant also sold a Mazda Millennium equipped with a hidden compartment that was designed to conceal large quantities of controlled substances and transport drug proceeds while avoiding law enforcement detection. The Mazda's hidden compartment was used by Mario Diaz, Gerardo Mora, Manuel Gauna, and others to transport a total of 16 kilograms of cocaine from Northern California to Ohio in September and October of 2006.

At trial, the United States also introduced 20 drug-related phone calls between Villaseñor and Mario DIAZ that were wiretapped by the FBI between March 22, 2007, and May 26, 2007. During the intercepted calls, the defendant discussed pound-quantities of methamphetamine, marijuana, and kilogram-quantities of cocaine.

In sentencing Villaseñor to 20 years in federal prison, United States District Judge William B. Shubb said that the defendant's attempt to portray himself at trial as a musician who was passionate about music was not accurate because the evidence showed that Mr. Villaseñor was more of "a drug dealer who dabbled in music." Judge Shubb noted that although Mr. Villaseñor had no prior criminal history, his large-scale drug trafficking between 2005 and 2007 required a sentence of 20 years in federal prison.