

United States Department of Justice

**For Immediate Release**

June 16, 2010 **United States Attorney's Office**  
**Eastern District of California**

## **Major Methamphetamine Dealer Sentenced to More Than 17 Years in Prison**

SACRAMENTO, CA—United States Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner announced today that Osbaldo Sarabia, 32, of Salida, was sentenced yesterday by United States District Judge John A. Mendez to 17.5 years in federal prison, to be followed by five years of supervised release for methamphetamine and cocaine trafficking. He pleaded guilty on October 20, 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. Assistant United States Attorney Jason Hitt is prosecuting the case.

According to court documents, on October 12, 2006, Sarabia was arrested in a parking lot of a restaurant on Waterloo Road at Highway 99 in San Joaquin County in a buy/bust operation. In Sarabia's BMW, agents discovered approximately four pounds of methamphetamine. On October 13, 2006, agents searched Sarabia's residence in Stanislaus County, which resulted in one of the largest methamphetamine seizures in California history. Agents found the following:

- Approximately 116 pounds of methamphetamine;
- Approximately 6.25 kilograms of powder cocaine;
- Approximately 4.5 pounds of marijuana; and
- Approximately \$46,000 in U.S. currency.

In sentencing, Judge Mendez noted the extraordinary scale of Sarabia's operations as a factor warranting a severe sentence.

This case was part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF). The OCDETF Program was established in 1982 to conduct comprehensive, multi-level attacks on major drug trafficking and money laundering organizations. The principal mission of the OCDETF program 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.