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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 11, 2006

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**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY AND CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL
ANNOUNCE AWARDING OF FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS TARGETING BACKLOG
OF DNA TESTING IN STATE CRIME LABS AND SACRAMENTO,
FRESNO, AND BAKERSFIELD COUNTY CRIME LABS**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and California Attorney General Bill Lockyer jointly announced today that the United States Department of Justice, as part of President Bush's DNA Initiative, *Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology*, has awarded approximately \$3.7 million in grant funds to local and state crime labs in the Central Valley to process backlogged DNA samples into the California DNA database. The awards include \$428,094 to the Sacramento County District Attorney Crime Lab; \$227,232 to the Kern County District Attorney Crime Lab; \$90,000 to the Fresno County Sheriff's Department Crime Lab; approximately \$1.7 million in grant funds to the California Department of Justice; and approximately \$1.2 million in grant funds to the California Office of Emergency Services-Law Enforcement and Victim Services Divisions. The \$3.7 million in funds were part of a total of \$9.5 million in grant funds awarded to labs throughout California.

Stated United States Attorney Alberto R. Gonzales, "DNA and other forensic evidence have proven to be valuable tools that have changed the landscape for law enforcement in solving crimes and removing criminals from our streets and communities. Through the President's DNA Initiative, crime victims and their families can know that law enforcement have the best forensic tools available on their side."

United States Attorney Scott stated, "There no longer is any debate as to the importance of DNA evidence in solving crime. These grant funds will provide meaningful assistance to our partners in state and local crime labs in our region in processing DNA samples collected from felons to help solve serious and violent crimes like murder, rape, and child molestation."

Stated California Attorney General Bill Lockyer, "Prior to 1999, the state's DNA lab produced an average of just one 'cold hit' per year. With the improvements we've made at the lab and the enactment of more aggressive state laws, we're now averaging one hit every day. This federal grant will help us further improve and expand California's successful DNA program."

Sacramento County District Attorney Jan Scully stated, "These grant funds will assist greatly in our ongoing effort to achieve justice through the science of DNA."

More information on President Bush's DNA Initiative can be found at www.dna.gov

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