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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** July 15, 2011  
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**Wier Pleads Guilty to Multiple Charges**

On Friday, July 15, 2011, Justin Steven Wier, 25, of Carlotta, pleaded guilty to negligent discharge of a firearm, a serious and violent felony under California's "three strikes" law, possession of a short-barreled shotgun, carrying a concealed weapon, and misdemeanor driving under the influence. Mr. Wier, who also admitted a probation violation, agreed to serve a term of five years in the California Department of Corrections. Actual sentencing will take place on August 16, 2011 before the Honorable Judge Marilyn Miles.

The weapons charges that Mr. Wier pleaded guilty to arose from an incident on June 7, 2011, when the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office received a report that a distraught Mr. Wier was walking up and down Highway 36 with a handgun and firing shots into the air. After Sheriff's deputies responded to the area, they cultivated additional information that Mr. Wier was seen earlier in the day carrying a short-barreled shotgun concealed in his clothing. The citizen who observed Mr. Wier with the shotgun was able to convince Mr. Wier to relinquish the firearm and then presented it to law enforcement. Sheriff's deputies later located Mr. Wier, who was taken into custody without incident.

The driving under the influence offense occurred on October 17, 2010.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Ben McLaughlin