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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Re: Man Found Guilty in Arcata Rape

Date: August 25, 2011

Contact: District Attorney Paul Gallegos

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On Thursday, August 25, 2011, a Humboldt County jury found Kevin Scott Walker, 38, of Humboldt County, guilty of forcible rape while acting in concert with another and oral copulation in concert, with force. The jury deliberated less than a day before rendering the guilty verdict.

In early July 2010, Walker met the twenty-year-old victim on the Arcata Plaza. After an argument with her boyfriend, the young woman asked that someone walk her to the bus station so she could go home. Walker and another man joined her. She believed they were walking to the bus stop.

On the way, the group talked about smoking marijuana and they walked into a wooded area. The young woman was shoved to the ground and Walker and the other man attacked her. While Walker forcibly raped her, the other assailant forced her to orally copulate him.

When able, the victim ran toward the Arcata softball fields and called for help. Several local citizens responded and also helped to locate and detain Walker in the wooded area. One witness described hearing what sounded like someone running through the brush, but the second assailant was not located and has not been identified.

“This young woman showed tremendous courage and strength during this ordeal; without her cooperation and without the citizens who came to her aid, Mr. Walker may never have been held accountable for his violent crimes. Our community is a safer place as a result,” said Assistant District Attorney Kelly Neel.

During the proceedings, Walker was also found to be in violation of probation stemming from a felony assault on a young man in Trinidad in 2008. He is scheduled to be sentenced on September 21 by the Honorable W. Bruce Watson and faces up to ten years in state prison.