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**MAN ADMITS MAKING FALSE CLAIMS IN CONNECTION
WITH FRAUDULENT TAX REFUND SCHEME**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney John K. Vincent announced today that JAVIER RODRIGUEZ SANCHEZ, 35, of Selma, pled guilty on February 3, 2003 before United States District Court Judge Anthony W. Ishii, to eight counts of making false claims against the United States in connection with an illegal tax refund scheme.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Mark Cullers, Sheila K. Oberto, and E. Robert Wright, who are prosecuting the case, the defendant was part of a group of individuals who allegedly executed one of the numerous tax refund schemes operating in the Central Valley. The schemes consisted of individuals who submitted false 1040 Individual Income Tax Returns to the Internal Revenue Service in order to receive false refund checks. RODRIGUEZ SANCHEZ admitted that in furtherance of the scheme to defraud the Internal Revenue Service, he permitted his residence to be used as the return address on false 1040 Individual Income Tax Returns for the purpose of receiving tax refund checks. RODRIGUEZ SANCHEZ also admitted that he knew that the 1040 Individual Income Tax Returns, which formed the basis of the tax refund checks, were false, fictitious or fraudulent. He further admitted that he received 8 fraudulent refund checks which he cashed. Judge Ishii scheduled sentencing for April 7, 2003.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service.

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