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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 17, 2013

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EVALUATION SHOWS DUI COURT IMPROVES PUBLIC SAFETY, FUNDING CONTINUES

San Joaquin County Superior Court is pleased to announce that it has been awarded \$552,000 in continued funding for its DUI Court program. Funding is provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) with support from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and will be used to support program operations and services between October 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013.

The DUI Court was implemented in 2008 to increase accountability for repeat DUI offenders and reduce recidivism among this high risk group with the goal of increasing public safety and the quality of life for all citizens. All repeat offenders in the Stockton Judicial District are ordered to participate in the DUI Court program. The DUI Court Team, which consists of four court compliance officers, one case manager, and one probation officer monitor repeat offenders in the program. Components of the DUI Court program include: regular court appearances, accountability to fulfill both Department of Motor Vehicle and court sanctioned sentencing mandates, regular drug and alcohol testing, use of Ignition Interlock Device (IID), home inspections to ensure alcohol free compliance, participation in 12-step recovery programs, and substance abuse treatment as mandated by the court. Since implementing the DUI Court, 2,388 individuals have participated in the program. There are currently 779 clients actively participating in the program. The DUI Court has graduated 77% of participants ordered to the program.

An independent program evaluation was commissioned with the program's last round of grant funding. The evaluation was conducted by NPC Research and was completed this past September. The evaluation compared the outcomes of DUI Court program participants versus the outcomes of individuals on traditional probation. The evaluation shows that over an 18 month period, DUI Court participants were significantly less likely to be re-convicted on a DUI than offenders who were eligible for the program, but did not participate. Additionally, less than half as many DUI Court participants were in collisions compared to those on traditional probation. Overall, the evaluation shows the DUI Court Program has been instrumental in reducing DUI recidivism and protecting public safety by reducing the incidence of traffic collisions (see attached Fact Sheet).

San Joaquin County Superior Court's efforts to increase public safety through the DUI Court program have been recognized by The Century Council. The Century Council is a non-

profit organization founded by a group of distillers that aims to fight to eliminate drunk driving, underage drinking, and promotes responsible decision-making regarding alcohol use. The Court was presented with a traffic safety award in December 2012 on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.

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SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY DUI MONITORING COURT FACT SHEET

What are DUI courts?

DUI courts specifically target repeat driving-under-the-influence (DUI) offenders with the main goal of protecting public safety. Participants are closely supervised by a judge who is supported by a team of agency representatives, including addiction treatment providers, attorneys, law enforcement and probation officers who work together to provide needed services to participants. Benefits to society take the form of reductions in crime and future DUIs, resulting in reduced costs to taxpayers and increased public safety. DUI courts, specifically, have been shown to be effective in reducing recidivism (both of DUIs and other crimes) and in reducing taxpayer costs due to positive outcomes for DUI court participants, including fewer re-arrests, less time in jail and less time in prison (Carey, Fuller, Kissick, Taylor, & Zold-Kilbourn, 2008).

In 2008, San Joaquin County implemented a system change where all repeat DUI offenders in the largest judicial district are required to participate in a DUI Monitoring Court program. Participants are required to come to court to report on progress in completing the terms of their probation, including DMV requirements to qualify to get their license returned. Participants who demonstrate that they are unable to comply with requirements and are assessed as dependant are required to attend treatment. *The main premise of this DUI monitoring court is that constant monitoring, accountability and structure make this program work.* Since 2008, the SJDMC has served over 2,245 repeat DUI offenders in Stockton.

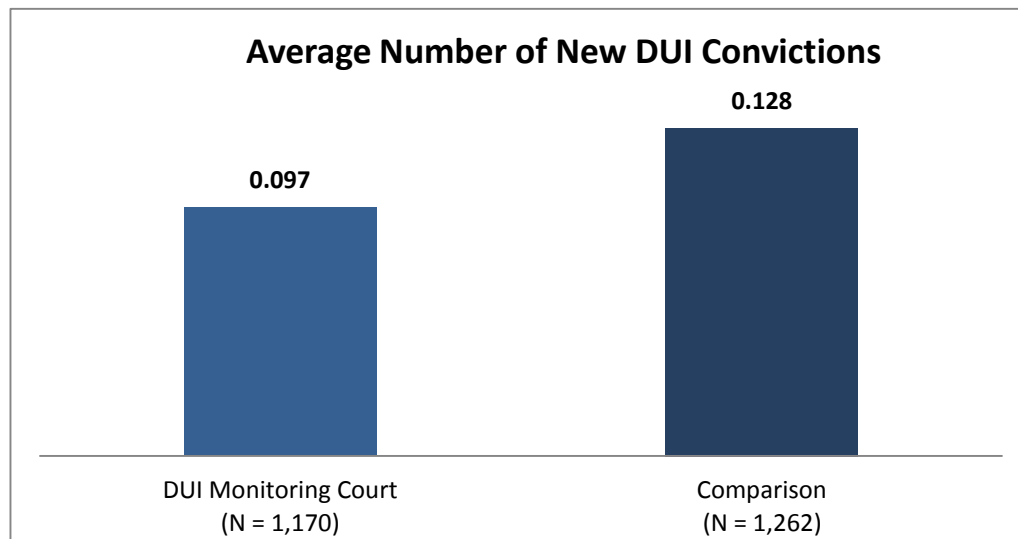
In late 2011, NPC Research was contracted by the San Joaquin County Court to conduct a process and outcome evaluation of the SJDMC. The court was interested in learning about the effectiveness of this program in reducing DUI recidivism and protecting public safety. There were two key policy questions that are of interest to DUI court staff, researchers and policymakers about this DUI court.

1. Does the San Joaquin DUI Monitoring Court reduce DUI recidivism?

YES. The SJDMC program participants were significantly less likely to be re-convicted on a DUI than offenders who were eligible for the program but did not participate.

Figure 1 shows that the SJDMC participants had significantly fewer new DUI convictions than comparison offenders ($p < .05$). This is a 32% decrease in the number of new DUI convictions and represents a total of **70 fewer DUI convictions** over just an 18 month period.

Figure 1. SJDMC Participants had Significantly Fewer DUI Convictions

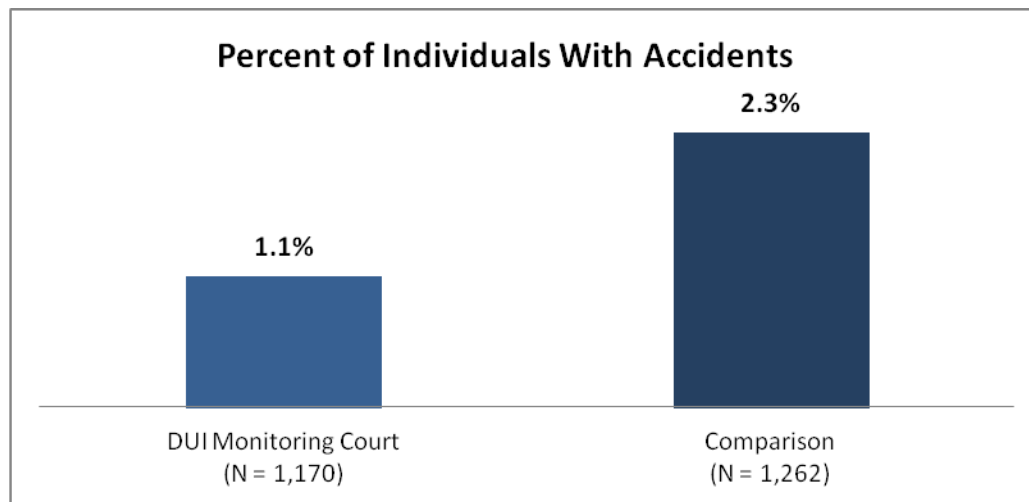


2. Does the San Joaquin DUI Court Protect Public Safety by reducing the incidence of traffic accidents?

YES. Less than half as many SJDMC participants were in accidents compared to those on traditional probation.

Figure 2 shows that 2.3% of non-DUI court participants had an involved accident 18 months after their index arrest, compared to 1.1% of the SJDMC participants ($p < .05$). Although these numbers are small, they represent events that can have serious social and financial costs, and thus are important to reduce to as small a number as possible. These numbers represent a total of 32 accidents for those on traditional probation compared to just 14 for those in the DUI Monitoring Court.

Figure 2. SJDMC Participants are Half as Likely to be Involved in Traffic Accidents



Overall, results showed that in the 18 months following their index DUI and subsequent entry into the SJDMC program, DUI Monitoring Court Participants:

- Had significantly fewer individuals with new DUI convictions (a 9% recidivism rate vs 12%)
- Had significantly fewer traffic accidents related to drug and alcohol consumption and significantly fewer accidents resulting in injury
- Were significantly more likely to comply with court, probation and DMV requirements (a 77% program compliance rate)
- Were significantly more likely to regain their driver's licenses

In sum, the SJDMC has implemented an effective and innovative program that shows substantial promise for increasing public safety in reducing drunk driving and traffic accidents - the second largest cause of accidental death in the nation.¹

¹ Prescription drug overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death in the United States.
<http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/rxbrief/>