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MADERA, CA. – Joseph Walter Roberts, age 50, of Madera was sentenced this week to serve 40 months in state prison for a variety of crimes including possession of stolen property, possession of methamphetamine for purposes of sale, and failure to appear in court. Roberts has a prior conviction for a “strike” offense, so he was sentenced under California’s Three Strike Law.

Roberts was charged in late 2013 with possession of methamphetamine for purposes of sale after an investigation by the Madera Police Department. Before that case could be adjudicated, he was arrested for possession of stolen property in January 2015 by the Madera County Sheriff’s Office. While the cases were pending, Roberts failed to appear in court in April of this year and warrants were issued. Detective Adam McEwen of the Madera County Sheriff’s Office later found and arrested Roberts.

Madera County District Attorney David A. Linn praised the efforts of both the Madera Police Department and the Madera County Sheriff’s Office. “Both agencies’ efficient investigations led to successful prosecution of these cases, and we will continue to vigorously prosecute suspects in order to protect the Madera County community” Linn said. He added that “failure to appear in court as ordered is a crime, and we will continue to hold defendants accountable for failing to follow the courts’ orders to appear.”

The case was prosecuted by Supervising Deputy District Attorney Todd Spangler, head of the District Attorney’s Agricultural and Water Crimes Task Force. He added: “We are happy that we were able to obtain convictions and hold the defendant accountable for his actions..”