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MINOR WHO STARTED THE WILLOW FIRE SENT TO THE MADERA COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY

MADERA, CA. – District Attorney David A. Linn announced today that the adolescent who allegedly started the Willow fire appeared in Madera Superior Court today in Department 5 before the honorable James Oakley.

The minor entered his response to the charges filed by the District Attorney for Arson, PC 451, and Unlawfully Causing Fire, PC 452, both felonies. District Attorney David Linn personally argued for the immediate detention of the minor in the Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility. The defense requested release of the minor pending future court proceedings. The minor was detained as requested by the District Attorney and placed in the Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility.

The matter will be heard again in Department 5 on August 26th for the disposition hearing confirmation. The matter will be tried on August 28th.

District Attorney Linn stated that he believed that significant psychological counseling would be necessary for the youthful offender, possibly including in-patient treatment at a facility located in southern California.

This is the second alleged arsonist that has been taken off of the streets of eastern Madera County in two days. Yesterday D.A. Linn obtained an order against the minor who started the John West fires. The minor was placed on house arrest, electronic monitoring, and given a curfew during the evening and night hours.

Considering the fact that youthful offenders are responsible for 40% of the arson fires throughout the United States, D.A. Linn, who has been handling arson cases for the past 40 years throughout the western United States and Washington DC stated that it was his goal to send a loud and clear message to potential offenders in Madera county that their unlawful acts must come to an end.