SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE/TIME: November 28, 2011 – 1:09 PM **LOCATION: Seabright and Murray**

TOPIC: Armed Robbery ARREST **CASE NUMBER: 11S-10145**

INVOLVED SUBJECTS:

1. Name: Richard Sasse **Arrested: [X] Yes [] No**
DOB: 27 years-old **Charges: Armed Robbery**
Santa Cruz Resident

2. Name: Christina Ruiz **Arrested: [X] Yes [] No**
DOB: 29 years-old **Charges: Parole Violation**
San Jose Resident

VICTIM:

2 Females – Washington State Residents –60 and 62 years-old

INFORMATION:

On November 28, 2011 at approximately 1:10 pm, Santa Cruz Police Department officers responded to a report of an armed robbery that occurred near the corner of Seabright and Murray. According to victim statements, the suspect approached and demanded a tote bag from one of the victims, which included a wallet and personal items. The victim initially hesitated and the suspect then displayed a firearm concealed in his waistband. The victim complied and the suspect fled in a vehicle northbound on Seabright Avenue.

Officers initiated Project ROPE and broadcast information about the suspect, license plate and vehicle, a Volvo sedan.

Soon after, officers received a report of a suspect ditching items out of a similar vehicle near 3rd and Cliff and Seaside Security monitoring radio traffic also saw a similar vehicle in the area of 2nd and Cliff. The license plate had been stolen from a similar vehicle to what the suspect was driving.

Officers established a perimeter and honed in on a unit in a motel in the 200 block of 2nd Street. Officers announced their presence at the door and the suspect, later identified as Richard Sasse, fled out a back window. Officers chased Mr. Sasse through some adjoining yards on Wave Lane before Lt. Mark Sanders and Officer Joe Hernadez caught up with him. Within Mr. Sasse's backpack were items stolen from the victims at Seabright and Murray. In addition, officers located a loaded handgun. Stolen items were also found near the area that witnesses had seen Mr. Sasse toss things from the car.

Within the motel room, officers located Christina Ruiz. Ms. Ruiz is on parole for burglary. The victims were able to identify Mr. Sasse as the suspect.

Mr. Sasse was booked into Santa Cruz County Jail for armed robbery and Ms. Ruiz was booked for a parole violation. The victims were not physically injured during the incident. Investigators are working to determine if Mr. Sasse is connected to other crimes in our area.

Anyone with additional information is asked to contact Santa Cruz Police Department Investigations at (831) 420-5820 or leave an anonymous tip at www.santacruzpolice.com or via the department's mobile app.