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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: October 16, 2017
Re: Domingo Bustos Anaya
Murder conviction change

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that convicted killer Domingo Bustos Anaya was allowed to plead to voluntary manslaughter with use of a gun for the killing of Luz Ortiz.

In 1997, Anaya (AKA Hector David Ruiz) was convicted by a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury of murdering Luz Ortiz. He was sentenced to state prison and has been continuously incarcerated since that time.

Recently, the Northern California Innocence Project filed a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus on Anaya's behalf, alleging they have found someone in Mexico who claims to be the real killer. That individual has not been made available to this District Attorney's Office. If the Writ were to be granted, a new jury trial would be required, something almost impossible to accomplish given the passage of time.

After evaluating the difficulties in re-trying a decades' old murder case, as well as the interests and risks to both parties, the District Attorney's Office agreed that defendant / inmate Bustos Anaya would be allowed to plead to the felony crime of voluntary manslaughter with use of a gun. He also pled to two counts of felony perjury for making false statements during his jury trial that he was in Mexico at the time of the killing. In return, he was resentenced to a determinate term of 21 years in prison, which will probably make him eligible for release in the very near future. His immigration status is unknown.

Bustos Anaya remains convicted of using a firearm to kill Luz Ortiz. He also stands convicted of perjury for lying in his previous jury trial. He will be returned to state prison where he may be released or delivered to another government agency.

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