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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 13, 2018
Re: David Trujillo Aguilar
Murder sentenced

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that David Aguilar, age 45, of Modesto, was sentenced on July 9th by Judge Nancy Ashley to 61 years to life plus two additional consecutive life terms in state prison for his role in the murder of Lacy Ferguson and the shootings of John Richie and Adrian Cervantez as they stood outside a Modesto convenience store in 2003. Chief Deputy District Attorney Marlisa Ferreira prosecuted the case for the People.

On August 24, 2003, Aguilar and a fellow gang member drove by the Quick Stop at Paradise and Carpenter Roads in Modesto to retaliate against rival gang members. Instead, Aguilar shot and killed twenty-five-year old Lacy Ferguson and injured John Richie and Adrian Cervantez.

After all leads were exhausted, the murder became a cold case until 2014 when Lacy Ferguson's mother, Boni Driskill, approached District Attorney Birgit Fladager to request assistance in reopening the case. With Sheriff Adam Christianson's approval, Fladager assigned the case to District Attorney Investigator Kirk Bunch, who was able to generate new leads and identify Aguilar as the perpetrator. Charges were filed in 2014 and it took two years to have Aguilar extradited from Mexico back to Stanislaus County.

After a five-week jury trial, Aguilar was convicted of first degree murder with a gun and two counts of attempted murder with a gun causing great bodily injury. Sentencing was delayed for almost a year while the defense filed motions for a new trial which were heard and denied.

On Monday, July 9th, Judge Ashley sentenced Aguilar to 35 years to life in state prison for the killing of Lacy Ferguson and ran two additional consecutive life terms plus 26 years in state prison for each of the other two victims making a total sentence of 61 years to life plus two additional consecutive life terms.

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