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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: August 26, 2013
Re: Juanmingo Becerra, DA #1237032

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Juanmingo Becerra, age 26, of Modesto, was convicted on August 23, 2013 of one count of voluntary manslaughter and admitted to the personal use of a firearm during the crime and that he committed the crime to benefit the Norteno street gang. Becerra was also convicted of assault with a firearm. Both of these charges are strikes under California's "Three Strikes" law. Deputy District Attorney Wendell Emerson prosecuted the case for the People.

On November 9, 2007, two subjects were walking near the intersection of Thrasher and Larkin in Modesto at approximately 3:24 pm when Becerra approached them holding a .38 caliber handgun. At that time, Becerra was an active member of the Eastside Modesto Norteno street gang. As both subjects fled, Becerra opened fire. Jaime Torres was shot in the back. The other subject was able to flee unharmed. Torres was rushed to the hospital where he was pronounced dead by attending medical staff. Torres had previously been a member of the Eastside Modesto Norteno street gang, but had dropped out of the gang and was no longer following orders from gang leaders. Law enforcement officials believe that Jaime Torres was shot as retaliation for dropping out of the Norteno gang.

Following the entry of a no contest plea, Judge Ricardo Cordova sentenced Juanmingo Becerra to 27 years in state prison.

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