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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: March 31, 2014  
Re: People v. Saul Hernandez

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Saul Hernandez, age 35, of Ceres, was convicted on March 24, 2014 of 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder following a jury trial. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On Monday, August 22, 2011 on Crows Landing Road, Hernandez's brother was robbed of his cell phone and wallet by Norteno gang members putting on a car wash fundraiser for funeral expenses of a murdered Norteno gang member. Hernandez's brother then told Hernandez. Neither Hernandez nor his brother were in a gang. Hernandez then drove to get his 40 mm Glock handgun and returned to the scene. While driving back to the scene at approximately 5:20 PM, Hernandez saw a 16-year-old boy wearing a red hat and walking alone. Hernandez and his brother believed that this 16-year-old was involved in the previous robbery. Hernandez stopped his car to let his brother confront the 16-year-old. A fist fight immediately broke out and Hernandez's brother was knocked to the ground and kicked in the face, resulting in a broken nose. (At the time of the murder, Hernandez was 6' 1", 180 lbs, 33 years old and his brother was 5' 8", 160 lbs, and 35 years old. The victim was 5' 6", 135 lbs). Hernandez then fired 6 shots at the victim striking him in the shoulder, the arm, two shots to the back, one shot to the head, and one shot to the face. Hernandez then drove by the car wash and fired his gun twice into the air to scare everyone at the car wash. Witnesses observed a partial license plate number on Hernandez's car.

Hernandez then drove back to his house a few miles away where he washed up, changed his clothes, made plans to hide his car, discarded the firearm, and left in another vehicle. After Hernandez's relatives were stopped by police while they were trying to dump his car, other family members pressured Hernandez to surrender himself so that his other relatives would not be charged with the murder.

Evidence was presented to the jury that, at the time of this murder, Hernandez had been on probation for giving a false name to a police officer and vandalism. Hernandez had kicked the door of a van that belonged to a grocery store manager after the manager had called the police to report Hernandez was selling fake immigration identifications to migrants.

The jury also heard that Hernandez had previously been granted immunity to testify against his uncle in a 2004 murder trial.

Upon receiving the jury's verdict, the Honorable Linda McFadden scheduled a sentencing hearing on April 22, 2014. Hernandez faces a maximum of fifty years-to-life.