



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

**Birgit Fladager**  
District Attorney

**Assistant District Attorney**  
Dave Harris

**Chief Deputies**  
Doug Raynaud  
Annette Rees  
Marlisa Ferreira

**Bureau of Investigation**  
Lt. David Hutchinson  
Lt. Froilan Mariscal

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: September 18, 2017  
Re: Jose Luis Ochoa Cuevas  
Felony DUI conviction & prison sentence

### For More Information Contact:

John Goold, Public Information Liaison  
Phone: (209) 525-6909

**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jose Luis Ochoa Cuevas, 26, of Turlock, California, was sentenced to five years in state prison for driving with a blood alcohol level of 0.08% or above causing injury.

On August 6, 2016, Cuevas was driving when he lost control of his car, crossed into the opposite lane, and collided head-on with another vehicle. The other vehicle's driver sustained moderate injuries and a passenger suffered a broken arm which required surgery. A CHP officer investigating the collision noted Cuevas smelled of alcohol. Cuevas admitted drinking before the crash and a chemical test determined his blood alcohol level was 0.12/0.11%.

On September 12, 2017, Cuevas pled no contest to felony driving with a blood alcohol level above 0.08% causing injury. He admitted having two alcohol-related reckless driving convictions from 2011 and 2013. He was still on probation for his most recent conviction. In addition, he admitted inflicting great bodily injury on the vehicle's passenger, which constitutes a strike under the "Three Strikes" law making him eligible for a longer prison sentence should he be convicted of a new felony crime after being released from state prison.

Judge Thomas Zeff sentenced Cuevas to a total of five years in state prison for the DUI and the enhancement for causing great bodily injury.

Deputy District Attorney Bianca Yip prosecuted the case for the People. Her position is funded by a grant provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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Office: 832 12th Street, Suite 300 Modesto, CA 95354 Mailing: PO BOX 442 Modesto, CA 95353  
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 558-4027 www.stanislaus-da.org



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