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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by SJB

District Attorney Lisa Green announced that today a Kern County jury convicted Julian Escamilla of committing a lewd act on a child under 14, forced oral copulation on a child under 14, and sexual penetration on a child under 14. The jury also found true kidnapping enhancements as to each of the three counts.

On May 10, 2017, the 12-year-old victim was at Planz Park when Escamilla approached her. When she tried to leave, he grabbed her by her arm and told her to stay. Escamilla grabbed her arm again and took her against her will to a secluded area where he sexually assaulted her. The victim ran for help and 911 was called immediately. Escamilla was identified by DNA evidence. He is facing life in prison without the possibility of parole at sentencing. Sentencing is set for April 24, 2018. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Alexandria Ottoman.