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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by _____

District Attorney Lisa S. Green made an announcement on a significant case today. On March 8, 2018, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Eric Smith, Juan Francisco Lopez was convicted of the murder of Silvestre Soto. A Kern County jury convicted Lopez of First Degree Murder, Discharge of a Firearm; PC 190.2(a)(1) Special Circumstance: Murder for Financial Gain, and PC 190.2(a)(15) Special Circumstance: Murder by Lying in Wait.

On March 20, 2014, tow truck driver Silvestre Soto was found deceased in an orange orchard near Neumarkel Road and Edison Highway. Silvestre Soto was found shot multiple times at close range with a shotgun. Lopez's DNA was found on latex gloves located near the decedent's body.

On April 5, 2018, Juan Francisco Lopez was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole before Honorable Judge John Lua.