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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by CJZ

Press Release # 22

Re: Conviction on Second Degree Murder, People v Jesus Rodriguez BF168564A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant vehicular homicide conviction today. In a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Garrett Rice, a Kern County jury found defendant Jesus Rodriguez guilty of 2nd Degree Murder, Gross Vehicular Manslaughter while intoxicated, and fleeing the scene of a fatal crash.

On June 3, 2017 officers from the California Highway Patrol responded to a collision scene on SR-184 in Lamont in which a vehicle had hit and killed the victim David Rico and left the scene. Officers followed a trail of vehicle fluid and located defendant Rodriguez passed out behind the wheel of his damaged car. The defendant had been driving in a grossly negligent manner when he caused the collision and had a blood alcohol level of .25%, which was over three times the legal limit.

Defendant Jesus Rodriguez had suffered four previous driving under the influence convictions, his last just four months prior to this deadly crash.

Sentencing is set for on May 21, 2019 before Superior Court Judge John Lua, and defendant Rodriguez faces a sentence of 15 years to life in state prison.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer stated: "Driving under the influence deaths are a significant and growing problem in Kern County. These deaths are completely preventable, and the District Attorney's Office is committed to bring to justice intoxicated drivers who victimize the innocent on our roadways."