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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 24, 2017**

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OSCAR CABRERA SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN 2006 HOMICIDE

District Attorney Jeffrey S. Rosell announced today Oscar Amezcua Cabrera was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the March 13, 2006 murder of Joe “Jose” Cabrera (no relation).

At the sentencing hearing, members of the victim’s family tearfully recalled memories and talked about the void his death has left in their lives. They also condemned the defendant for his cowardice act of violence.

The District Attorney’s office sought the maximum punishment which was imposed by the Honorable Timothy Volkmann who handed down a sentence of Life without the possibly of parole plus 30-life.

Assistant District Attorney Johanna Schonfield said this about today’s sentence “Oscar Cabrera is a career criminal who terrorized this community. He absolutely deserves to spend the rest of his life in prison.”

Assistant District Attorney Alex Byers remarked “The District Attorney’s Office is pleased with the sentence. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of all law enforcement involved in bringing the defendant to justice.”

A jury previously delivered a guilty verdict on December 1, 2016, convicting the defendant of first degree murder and finding that the defendant personally used a gun during the murder and that the murder was carried out to further the activities of the Nuestra Familia, a notorious prison gang.

At the time of the murder, the defendant had an extensive criminal record including having served multiple stints in prison. He had also long been a target of law enforcement who had been able to establish that the defendant started a faction of the Nuestra Familia in Watsonville.

Oscar Cabrera, while running this criminal organization, shot Joe “Jose” Cabrera for what was a perceived disrespect, and then left Joe for dead on the outskirts of Watsonville. After shooting Joe, the defendant fled to Mexico where he remained on the run until 2013. He was apprehended thanks to coordinated efforts of local law enforcement, FBI and Mexican officials.

Joe Cabrera, who was a skilled mechanic, is survived by a large and loving family who frequently attended the trial.