* NEWS RELEASE *

JURY CONVICTS SEASIDE GANG MEMBER OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Alejandro Hernandez Delgado, a 25-year-old resident of Seaside, was convicted of murdering 17- year-old Antonio Garcia for the benefit of the Sureno Criminal Street Gang. The jury also found that the defendant used a firearm in the commission of Mr. Garcia's murder.

On October 20, 2012, there was a beach party in Sand City, just west of the Costco Shopping Center. It was a high school party with most of the attendees from Seaside and Central Coast High Schools. A few of the attendees were young Norteno gang members or associates. After 11:00 p.m. Antonio Garcia left the party. Garcia left the beach area and walked towards the recreational trail, which underpasses the freeway and leads to a parking area used by beachgoers. At the time Garcia entered the underpass, Delgado was chasing another young man with a sawed off shotgun. The man being chased was running in a zigzag pattern and successfully eluding Delgado. Delgado then turned his attention to Garcia who was listening to music and unaware of the situation occurring in the underpass. When Garcia saw the gun he turned and tried to run. Delgado quickly caught up to Garcia and discharged the weapon into Garcia's back at very close range.   Garcia was pronounced dead two and half hours later.

Evidence was produced at trial that showed the defendant had an animus for Norteno's and took the shotgun to the beach party for the purpose of shooting a Norteno.

The defendant will be sentenced on April 28, 2016 by Monterey Superior Court Judge Carrie Panetta and faces a sentence of 50 years-to-life.

The case was investigated by the Peninsula Regional Violence and Narcotics Task Force, the Sand City Police Department and District Attorney Investigators John Coletti and Adam Sepagan. Probation Officer Cristal Sanchez provided critical testimony.