

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO EVADING AN OFFICER WITH WILFUL DISREGARD FOR SAFETY

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Francisco Pancho Garcia, age 41, has pled guilty to evading an officer, with willful disregard for the safety of persons and property. Mr. Garcia will be sentenced by Judge Pamela L. Butler on October 14, 2016, to three years and eight months in the state prison.

On December 26, 2015, Mr. Garcia was drove a vehicle at a high rate of speed and used the center turn pocket of Kern Street in Salinas to pass a patrol car assisting in an unrelated traffic stop. The officer followed Mr. Garcia onto Highway 101 northbound. Mr. Garcia drove in excess of 100 mph while recklessly and dangerously changing lanes, passing dozens of vehicles and nearly losing control of his vehicle in the center divide. The pursuit lasted nearly seven miles before police apprehended Mr. Garcia.