

**\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **PENINSULA SURENO GANG MEMBERS CONVICTED OF SEASIDE MURDERS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Juan Hernandez Delgado, a.k.a., Joker, age 29, of Seaside, was convicted of two separate murders by a jury in Salinas. The jury found that both murders were of the first degree, that Hernandez Delgado had personally used a firearm in each murder, and that each murder had been committed for the benefit of a criminal street gang. Hernandez Delgado and fellow Sureno gang member Francisco Chacala, then age 17, gunned down Erick Curiel, age 21, on Elm Avenue in Seaside on July 11, 2013, killing him almost instantly. Hernandez Delgado then shot and killed Hugo Ricalde, age 20, on Amador Avenue in Seaside on July 30, 2013, and Chacala drove the getaway vehicle. Both victims were merely walking down the street, one after leaving his girlfriend's house and one on his way home from work, when they were accosted by Hernandez Delgado. Although neither was an active gang member, they were killed anyway because Hernandez Delgado suspected that they were rival gang members.

Chacala also participated in two other shootings, one where a man was shot at a medical clinic in Marina on August 23, 2012, and another where a man and a woman were shot in an apartment parking lot off of San Pablo Avenue in Seaside on March 30, 2013.

These shootings were part of a violent rampage by the Sureno gang on the Monterey Peninsula in 2012 and 2013, motivated by the shooting death of one of their associates in a gun battle with the rival Norteno gang. Most of the participants in these crimes are now in custody serving lengthy sentences.

Hernandez Delgado was convicted after a jury trial which lasted two and a half weeks, and Chacala pled guilty to his crimes on Monday January 16, a week before his jury trial was scheduled to begin. Both will be sentenced on April 20. Hernandez Delgado faces 100 years to life for both murders and Chacala will receive a sentence of 50 years to life.

The cases were investigated by Detective Gabe Anderson of the Seaside Police Department, Investigator Rick Gamble of PRVNT (the Peninsula Regional Violence and Narcotics Team) and Investigator John Coletti of the Monterey County District Attorney's Office, among many other officers who helped with various aspects of the investigation and prosecution of the cases.