

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Fabian Alvarado, age 19, of Salinas, was found guilty by a jury of one count of 1st degree murder, two counts of attempted murder and one count of shooting at an inhabited dwelling. The jury also found true that Alvarado committed these crimes with the intent to promote, further or assist the Norteno Criminal Street Gang.

On May 8, 2016, Alvarado and another individual drove up to the victim's home on Block Avenue in Salinas. The victim, Mario Puga, was working on his car in the driveway with two other family members. Alvarado got out of the car and ran up to the victim's open garage and opened fire. At least ten shots were fired. Puga was struck three times and died as a result of the gunshot wounds. Neighbors had surveillance video showing Alvarado's car involved in the shooting, and Salinas Police Department Detectives Gonzalez and Gansen found Alvarado driving his car the very next day. A search warrant at Alvarado's home located numerous firearms and ammunition, including the firearm used to shoot Puga.

Alvarado is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Andrew Liu on January 10, 2018. He faces 104 years to life in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The case was investigated by Detectives Gabriel Gonzalez and Byron Gansen of the Salinas Police Department, as well as District Attorney Investigator John Coletti.