

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **MOSS LANDING MAN FOUND GUILTY OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER AND EXHIBITING GUN AT OFFICERS**

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**May 8, 2018**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on May 7, 2018, Jose De Jesus Estrada, age 40, a resident of Moss Landing, was found guilty by jury of first degree murder of Alejandro Reyes and of exhibiting a firearm in the presence of officers. The jury also held that Estrada personally discharged a firearm causing death. The case was heard by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Pamela L. Butler.

Estrada lived at the Moss Landing residence since 2004, working as the property manager and helping to maintain the property. Over time, he stopped fulfilling his duties as the property manager. In the beginning of February 2017, he introduced the victim, Alejandro Reyes, to the property owner who allowed Reyes to stay on the property. Reyes began cleaning up the property and doing the duties that Estrada was previously in charge of as the property manager. Estrada became enraged that Reyes was taking over his duties and was seen yelling at Reyes just three days before the murder. Estrada was upset and he left the property on February 13, 2018.

On February 15, 2017, at around 8 a.m. Estrada came back to the property. He ambushed Reyes with a large ceramic tile and a .22 caliber gun. Estrada fired one shot directly into Reyes' upper chest, penetrating his trachea, lung, and aorta. Estrada also bludgeoned Reyes with the large tile on the back of his head, face, and chest causing multiple rib fractures, a fractured sternum, a broken cheek bone, a neck fracture, and multiple other injuries caused by blunt force trauma. The property manager and another civilian witness observed Estrada on the property and covered in blood. The blood on his face was tested and it was a positive match for Alejandro Reyes.

After officers arrived on scene, Estrada refused to exit the residence for an hour. At one point, Estrada exited, holding a large firearm, in the presence of many officers.

The case was investigated by Detective Speirs and many other officers from the Monterey County Sheriff's Office Robbery and Homicide Division.

Judge Pamela L. Butler will sentence Estrada on June 15, 2018. He faces up to fifty years to life in state prison.