

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **GREENFIELD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO GROSS VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER WHILE INTOXICATED**

---

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 7, 2018**

**CONTACT: Brian T. Jones, Deputy District Attorney  
(831) 796-6048**

---

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Nicanor De Jesus Sanchez of Greenfield, age 23, pled guilty to gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, driving under the influence of alcohol causing injury and admitted causing great bodily injury to multiple victims. The defendant will be sentenced August 21, 2018 by Judge Julie R. Culver and faces a possible sentence of 16 years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

On February 11, 2017, the defendant was driving with a blood alcohol content of .23 and crashed his car through a road closure gate located at the Elm Avenue bridge east of the City of Greenfield. The defendant's Honda Accord spun out of control after crashing through the steel gate and collided with three pedestrians. The pedestrians were crushed between the defendant's car and a steel guard rail and violently thrown into the Salinas River. Due to an abnormally wet winter the Salinas River was flowing very rapidly and had breached its banks flooding farmlands and roadways throughout the county. Despite extensive wounds, two of the victims were able to struggle their way to the riverbank. The third victim was carried downstream and his body has not been recovered to this day despite multiple attempts by search and rescue teams as well as friends and family.

The defendant entered his plea during the third day of jury trial in this case. A Monterey County Jury had been sworn, opening statements had been given and evidence was being presented when the defendant elected to enter his plea to all of the charges alleged.

This case was investigated by California Highway Patrol Officer Ryan Denker, Monterey County Sheriff's Sergeant Michael Darlington and District Attorney Investigator Terri Edwards.