

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

AROMAS MAN GIVEN 40 DAYS COUNTY JAIL, 3-YEAR HUNTING BAN, AND MANDATORY HUNTING EDUCATION CLASS FOR POACHING SPIKE DEER USING LEAD AMMUNITION WITHIN CALIFORNIA CONDOR RANGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2018

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on September 24, 2018, Cuauhtemoc Lopes, age 46, entered a plea of no contest to taking a spike deer without a deer tag and using lead ammunition within a California Condor Zone. Monterey County Superior Court Judge Elisabeth Mineta placed Mr. Lopes on 3 years of informal probation with terms and conditions including 40 days in county jail, a 3-year hunting ban, a search and seizure waiver, and a requirement that Mr. Lopes complete a hunting education course.

On September 22, 2018, wildlife wardens of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife received a tip via their CalTIP reporting program that a man shot and killed a deer through a wire fence. The reporting party then observed three men cross the bordering fence, drag the deer onto the other side of the fence, load the deer onto a flatbed truck, and drive to the house on the same property.

The wardens responded to the house and located a .308 caliber rifle and cartridge containing lead bullets. Inside two freezers were two halves of a fresh deer carcass. A fresh spike deer head was found situated on a tree. At the house, Mr. Lopes admitted to killing the deer. Mr. Lopes did not have a deer tag or permit authorizing the take of deer. The deer was killed using lead ammunition within the California Condor Range.

The case was investigated by California Department of Fish and Wildlife Wardens Matt Henderson, Kaleb Eye, and Kyle Sommer.

The public is encouraged to turn in poachers and polluters by calling 1-888-334-CalTIP. CalTIP (Californians Turn In Poachers and Polluters) is an anonymous tip program that helps the California Department of Fish and Wildlife protect the state's fish and wildlife resources. More information about CalTIP is found here: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/enforcement/caltip>.

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