

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN FOUND GUILTY OF 5 CHARGES INCLUDING COMMUNICATING WITH A MINOR TO COMMIT CHILD MOLEST AND ATTEMPTING TO MEET WITH A MINOR FOR A LEWD PURPOSE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7, 2018

**CONTACT: Lana Nassoura, Deputy District Attorney
(831) 755 - 5255**

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on November 5, 2018, Salinas resident Jesus (Jesse) Ortega, age 33, was found guilty by jury of communicating with a minor under 14 to commit oral copulation, attempting to meet with a minor for a lewd purpose, arranging a meeting with a minor for a lewd purpose, sending pornography to a minor, and annoying a minor. The case was heard by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Julie R. Culver.

In May 2017, Ortega was employed as a computer technician for a local school district. As part of his job, he had access to all the of the student's school email addresses, including middle school student Jane Doe. On May 10, he began emailing her school email address from an email account he created two days before. Ortega and Doe emailed for about two months. In his emails, he lied to Doe about his age and stated he was only 21-years-old. He also purchased gifts for her and complimented her physical appearance. After the Salinas Police Department were notified of these emails, an officer began to send emails to Ortega from Doe's email account, pretending to be her. Ortega responded to Doe's account stating that he wanted to engage in oral copulation with her and also sent a pornographic image to her email account. He agreed to meet up with her at the Northridge Mall in Salinas on July 20, 2017 at 6 p.m. in order to engage in oral copulation. Officers observed Ortega leaving his residence around 5:25 p.m. that day and drive in the direction of the mall. Officers conducted a traffic stop of Ortega around 5:30 p.m. when he was about four and a half miles away from the location.

The case was investigated by District Attorney Investigator Oliver Minnig, as well as many officers from the Salinas Police Department.

Judge Julie R. Culver will sentence Ortega on December 11, 2018. He faces up to five years and eight months in custody.