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PRESS RELEASE

February 14, 2019

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SALINAS RESIDENT SENTENCED FOR MOLESTING FRIEND'S 13 YEAR OLD CHILD

People v Edgar Vasquez Zuniga; SS160920A

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that that Edgar "Ricardo" Zuniga, age 38, and a resident of Salinas was sentenced to 364 days in jail and 6 years probation by Judge Andrew G. Liu. The People had requested he be sent to prison. Zuniga was previously found guilty by a jury of the sole count of lewd and lascivious conduct with a child under 14.

The incident occurred at the victim's home where the defendant and his family were visiting. He went into the bedroom of Jane Doe, apparently to look for his five year old son, but ended up touching the victim who was 13 at the time. The incident occurred in May 2016. A prior jury deadlocked and the re-trial had been continued numerous times.

Jane Doe and her family were all willing to go through the process to see that justice was served. She courageously reported the touching immediately to her family and faced the defendant in the courtroom during both trials. Judge Liu commented at sentencing that he believed Jane Doe and found her to be a strong and sweet young woman.

The case was investigated by Salinas Police Department Officer's Froylan Aranda and Danny Garcia. District Attorney Investigator Oliver Minnig significantly contribute to trial preparation. Jane Doe was assisted by District Attorney Victim including Odie, one of two comfort dogs in the office.