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PRESS RELEASE

April 23, 2019

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SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO 2 YEARS FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE WITH PRIOR CONVICTIONS

People v. Martin Lara; 19CR003957

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that Martin Contreras Lara, age 28 and a resident of Salinas, was sentenced to two years in the county jail pursuant to PC 1170(h) for driving under the influence with a blood alcohol level of .08 or higher with three prior convictions.

On December 23, 2018, California Highway Patrol officers observed a green Honda Accord traveling northbound on US-101. A traffic stop on the vehicle was initiated due to the expired registration tags. Upon contact with the driver, Martin Contreras Lara, officers smelled a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from inside the vehicle. Lara informed officers he consumed two 24-ounce beers earlier that evening. Lara failed to satisfactorily perform a series of field sobriety tests. He agreed to submit to a breath test, which yielded a blood alcohol content of 0.10% and 0.09%. Lara had prior driving under the influence convictions from 2010, 2011 and 2016.

California Highway Patrol Officer Barnes was instrumental in conducting the investigation that resulted in the arrest and conviction.

This case was presented by members of the Monterey County District Attorney's Office specialized DUI Vertical Prosecution Unit. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.