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PRESS RELEASE

May 22, 2019

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48-YEAR-OLD SEASIDE MAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN PRISON FOR COMMITTING FORCIBLE CHILD MOLESTATION

People v. Andres Vargas Herrera; 18CR004880

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that on May 21, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Carrie M. Panetta sentenced Andres Vargas Herrera, age 48, a resident of Seaside, to 25 years in prison for committing four counts of forcible child molestation of a child under the age of 14 years. All four counts are violent felonies and are considered “strikes” under California’s Three Strikes law.

Jane Doe reported that Herrera, who is a family member, molested her repeatedly when she was between ten to twelve years old. The assaults occurred when Doe’s mother was not around. Doe explained that she was very afraid of Herrera, and as a result, she didn’t report the molestation until many years later. According to research into sexual assault victim behavior, it is very common for victims to delay reporting the sexual abuse for many years, especially when the victim is a minor and has a close relationship with the perpetrator.

In addition to his prison sentence, Herrera is required to register as a sex offender for life. Herrera was also ordered not to have any contact with Jane Doe for a period of ten years, the maximum term under the law.

The case was investigated by Detective Byron Gansen from the Salinas Police Department, and District Attorney Investigator Terri Edwards. Jane Doe was assisted by District Attorney Victim Advocate Kristin Gebin.