

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

WATSONVILLE WOMAN FOUND GUILTY OF DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE AND FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH OFFICER'S DIRECTIVES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: STEFANIE ZAMORA
(831) 759-6705**

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Sofia Ruiz, age 37, a resident of Watsonville, was found guilty by jury of driving under the influence of alcohol and failing to comply with officer's directives. The case was heard by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Vanessa Vallarta.

On July 12, 2015, Sofia Ruiz left Franco's nightclub around 2:30 AM and drove to a nearby artichoke field in Castroville. A Monterey County Sheriff's deputy observed Ruiz' vehicle pull over and park. After a few moments, the deputy went to check on Ruiz and immediately could smell the odor of alcohol emitting from the vehicle. California Highway Patrol officers arrived to conduct a DUI investigation shortly thereafter. Ruiz was noncompliant and aggressive with the officers and refused to take any field sobriety tests or submit to a chemical test as required by law.

After 3 hours of deliberation the jury found the defendant guilty of both counts and the special allegation that the defendant refused to submit to a chemical test. She was sentenced to a total of 40 days in county jail and five years of probation.