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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: February 22, 2016
Re: Rene Salas Sentencing

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Rene Salas, age 51 of Turlock, was sentenced to twelve years in state prison for vehicular manslaughter.

On January 9, 2014 at about 10:30 p.m., Salas was recklessly driving his car near Summerfaire Park in Turlock when he hit two pedestrians walking their dog. Elizabeth Mancha was killed and David McThorn suffered serious injuries. Defendant ran away from the scene.

An investigation by Turlock Police identified Salas as the driver. During an interview he admitted being involved in the crash. He was arrested on January 22nd, 2014 and has been held in custody since that time.

On November 19, 2015, Salas pled no contest to the felony charge of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence. He also admitted having a previous felony conviction in 1984 for residential burglary.

On February 9, 2016, pursuant to a plea agreement, Stanislaus County Superior Court Judge Nancy Ashley sentenced Salas to twelve years in state prison.

This case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Anthony Colacito working under a grant funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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