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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Date: June 24, 2024 Re: Hugo Andres Barrera Sex Offender Sentenced Wendell Emerson, Public Information Liaison

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Hugo Andres Barrera, age 32, of Stockton was sentenced on June 17, 2024 to 32 years state prison after being convicted of the following crimes: Forced oral copulation of a child under the age of 14 (PC § 287(c)(2)(B)), forced digital penetration of a child under the age of 14, (PC § 289(a)(1)(A)), and continuous sexual abuse of a child under the age of 14, (PC § 288.5(a)).

On May 16, 2024, the defendant entered no contest pleas to the crimes. Deputy District Attorney Sara D. Sousa prosecuted the case for the People.

On September 2, 2023, Stanislaus County Sheriff Deputies arrived at the Woodwood Reservoir in response to the report of a sexual assault of the 11-year-old confidential victim. Detectives with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office Special Victim's Unit conducted the investigation. During a forensic interview, the confidential victim disclosed Barrera began sexually abusing her at the age of nine in San Joaquin County.

Following his arrest, Barrera was read his *Miranda* Advisement, and admitted six separate incidents but maintained the minor child would, without provocation, "come on to him."

Upon entry of the no contest plea and after hearing impact statements read into the record by Prosecutor Sousa on behalf of the minor and the minor's mother, the Honorable Judge Kellee Westbrook sentenced Barerra to 32 years in state prison. These convictions will require Barrera to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

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