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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 27, 2014 **Contact:** Michael Cabral, Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney
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Murder Conviction In West Sacramento Cold Case Homicide

(Woodland, CA) – January 27, 2014 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on Monday, January 27, 2014, a Yolo County jury convicted Juan Antonio Gonzales, 29, of Sacramento, of Murder in the First Degree and found True the Special Circumstance that the Murder was committed during a Robbery.

On June 18, 2006, Alfonso Prado, a janitor at Ortega’s West bar in West Sacramento, was cleaning the bar when unknown individuals entered the bar and robbed Mr. Prado of his belongings. During the robbery the intruders shot Mr. Prado in the chest killing him. Three days later, the Sacramento Police Department recovered a hand gun and entered identifying information into the National Ballistics Network. Two years later a “cold hit” established that this gun, which was last in the possession of an associate of defendant Gonzales, was the weapon used to kill Mr. Prado. A year later, the Department of Justice Criminalistics Laboratory, received a cold hit identification establishing that a small amount of blood found at the scene matched DNA from defendant Gonzales that was in the national DNA database (CODIS).

Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney Michael J. Cabral stated that the successful prosecution of this eight year old case would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of the California Department of Justice Bureau of Forensic Services. District Attorney Jeff Reisig stated, “This type of case establishes that the CODIS DNA database is an invaluable tool for law enforcement and prosecutors to locate and prosecute individuals for their crimes.”

The Honorable Stephen L. Mock of the Yolo Superior Court will sentence Gonzales on March 3, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Department 3. Gonzales faces a sentence of life in state prison without the possibility of parole.

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