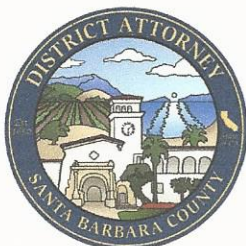


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 05-246

RELEASE NUMBER

May 20, 2014

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Paul Greco, Deputy District Attorney

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******* PRESS RELEASE *******

May 20, 2014

Re: *People v. Martin Contreras*

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that 39-year old Martin Contreras was sentenced to 29 years 4 months in state prison after pleading guilty to two counts of attempted murder and admitting the special allegations of being armed with a gun and committing the crimes for the benefit of a criminal street gang.

The first attempted murder took place on September 15, 2009, where Contreras shot at another gang member standing outside his home in the Donovan neighborhood in the City of Santa Maria. The second attempted murder took place on October 3, 2010, in the City of Santa Maria near the area of Preisker Lane and Roemer Way. During that incident, Contreras was involved in a vehicle chase and fired a number of gun shots from his vehicle at a rival gang member. In both shootings, neither of the intended targets was injured.

District Attorney Dudley commended the Santa Maria Police Department's gang suppression team for their outstanding investigative work in these two crimes and stated, "Justice was served in this case today. A dangerous gang member is now off the streets of Santa Barbara County."

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