

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 11-213

RELEASE NUMBER

November 19, 2013

RELEASE DATE

Joyce E. Dudley
APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Brooke Gerard, Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT (805) 346-7540

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November 19, 2013

Re: People v. Arthur Watkins
People v. Jose Armando Villa Mendez

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that charges have been filed against Arthur Watkins, age 55, of Arroyo Grande, California, as a result of an incident at the East Main Street branch of Wells Fargo Bank in Santa Maria, on November 16, 2013. There are seven felony counts: Burglary, five counts of Robbery, and one count of Brandishing a Firearm at a Police Officer, plus an allegation that Watson was armed with a .45 caliber Glock handgun which he used in an attempt to avoid capture. The five robbery counts name as a victim each of the individual bank employees from whom cash was allegedly taken, as there is no generic "bank robbery" statute under California law.

Also charged today in a separate complaint was Jose Armando Villa Mendez, age 19, of Santa Maria, California. The complaint filed against Villa-Mendez alleges one count of Grand Theft and one count of Receiving Stolen Property for allegedly taking a bag of currency dropped by Watkins during Watkins' flight.

Arrest for both men is scheduled for November 19, 2013, in Santa Maria Superior Court, Dept. 9.

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SANTA BARBARA OFFICE
1112 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2300
Fax: (805) 568-2453

SANTA MARIA OFFICE
312-D East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 346-7540
Fax: (805) 346-7588

LOMPOC OFFICE
115 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 737-7760
Fax: (805) 737-7732