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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
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APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

February 27, 2015

Re: *People v. Raul Antonio Yescas, III*

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that 25-year old Raul Antonio Yescas, III, was sentenced to 30 years to life in state prison after having been convicted of two counts of forcible rape. On July 14, 2014, a Santa Barbara jury found Yescas guilty of multiple rapes, and found true a special allegation that the rapes were committed on multiple victims.

These crimes arose out of incidents occurring in late 2010 and early 2011 in the City of Santa Barbara. In the late 2010 incident, Yescas raped an 18-year old female acquaintance and Santa Barbara County resident during the evening in her car that was parked in a downtown city parking lot. The early 2011 incident occurred during mid-morning hours in the women's bathroom of the upper level at the Paseo Nuevo Mall, wherein Yescas broke into a bathroom stall and forcibly raped a 19-year old female resident of Los Angeles County. Yescas' DNA was entered into the State of California DNA felony arrestee database after a burglary conviction and was matched in October 2012 to DNA from the 2011 rape.

District Attorney Dudley commended the Santa Barbara Police Department and the Department of Justice Criminal Lab in Goleta for their work in investigating, analyzing evidence, and assisting Deputy District Attorney Ben Ladinig in the prosecution of these heinous crimes. Dudley also added that the victims should be commended for their bravery in making sure that this sexual predator can no longer endanger women.

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