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**COUNTY OF KERN**

**CRIMINAL DIVISION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Approved by SSJ

Kern County District Attorney Lisa Green announced a verdict in a significant gang case today.

A Kern County jury convicted Troy Sanders today of one count of first degree murder, with the special circumstances of lying in wait and gang participation, one count of attempted murder, one count of assault with a semi-automatic firearm, and one count of active participation in a criminal street gang.

The jury heard evidence of how Troy Sanders concealed himself behind a fence and waited for his victims to leave the Mars Collective Marijuana Dispensary shortly after 2:00 am on July 4, 2017. Sanders, a member of the East Side Crips criminal street gang, ran towards the victims as they were about to leave the parking lot and fired 30 rounds from a semi-automatic handgun. Nearly two dozen shell casings were found inside the victims' car, suggesting that most of the shots were fired at close range. Sanders then ran to a getaway car parked on Union Avenue where an accomplice drove him away. The shooting took the life of the driver of the vehicle and caused great bodily injury, including a gunshot wound to the head, to the front seat passenger. Sanders had insulted a rival gang in remarks he made to the victim minutes before the shooting.

A sentencing date will be set for Troy Sanders for sometime in late July. Sanders faces a maximum sentence of life without the possibility of parole. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney William Schlaerth.