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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Re: Attempted Murder Shooting Jury Trial Conviction: Steven Hernandez: BF177578A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury verdict in a multiple-victim attempted murder shooting case today.

On February 5, 2021, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Hunter E. Starr, a Kern County jury convicted Steven Adrian Hernandez, age 29, of two separate counts of attempted murder with personal, intentional discharge of a firearm, each count alleging a separate victim. Hernandez was also convicted of two counts of assault with a semiautomatic firearm, two felony counts involving carrying an unregistered firearm, resisting arrest, and concealing evidence. Hernandez's two codefendants, Toni Hernandez and Adrienne Villasana, each entered pleas as aiders and abettors to one count of assault with a semiautomatic firearm before the trial began.

On July 27, 2021, Steven Hernandez, his sister, Toni Hernandez, and their mutual friend, Adrienne Villasana, took a case of beer, an open bottle of tequila, and a loaded unregistered handgun to Hart Park. Steven Hernandez became involved in a verbal argument with a business owner who had a permit to operate at Hart Lake and his friend (victims); the altercation quickly turned into a physical fight. When the fight concluded, Toni and Adrienne began encouraging Steven Hernandez to "pop the trunk" on the victims. Both victims contacted 9-11, telling operators that they believed the trio were retrieving a gun. While one victim was on the 9-11 call, Steven Hernandez removed the firearm from his vehicle and fired between 3 and 7 shots at the victims as the victims fled. Kern County Rangers arrived just as the shooting ended and moved in to take Steven Hernandez into custody. Hernandez fled from the Rangers by jumping into the lake, where he hid the gun in the muddy lake bottom. After his arrest, Kern County Search and Rescue assisted in locating and seizing the firearm as the Sheriff's Office processed evidence.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented: "Those who rely on gun-fueled violence to resolve petty disputes will continue to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. We will not allow violent criminals to turn our parks into battlefields without serious consequences."

This conviction was made possible by members of the community who assisted law enforcement and by

law enforcement officers including Kern County Rangers, Sheriff's deputies, and Search and Rescue.

Sentencing is scheduled for March 10, 2021 where Hernandez faces a sentence of over 30 years in prison.