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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JURY CONVICTS MURDERER

A Merced County jury has found Oakland resident Raymond Anthony Brown guilty of first degree murder in the April 15, 2006 slaying of Merced resident Jose Miranda. The jury also convicted the 25 year - old Brown of robbery and two counts of attempted robbery, according to Deputy District Attorney Thomas k. Cooke, who prosecuted the case. The jury deliberated for two days before reaching its verdicts this afternoon. The deliberations followed a 2 week trial, presided over by Superior Court Judge Ronald W. Hansen.

According the Cooke, Miranda was shot to death by another one of the three men who participated in the robbery. After Brown lost his firearm in a struggle with the victim, Brown yelled for one of his confederates to "get him", which led directly to the murder. As Miranda lay dying on his uncle's porch, the three robbers sped away in a Mustang convertible, said Cooke. Police arrested Brown several days later in Oakland, and he confessed his role in the robbery and murder to Merced County Sheriff's Detectives.

"I appreciate the hard work the jury did in weighing the evidence and following the law. I also extend my condolences to the victim's surviving family members, and would like to thank the Sherriff's Department for their diligent efforts to find the truth and solve this case," said Cooke. "Whenever a group of criminals engage in serious criminal behavior like robbery, society must hold everyone involved in the crimes responsible. Hopefully this will send a message to those who prey on the innocent with guns that they will receive the harshest penalty possible, life in prison, whether they are the actual killer or not" Cooke added.

Brown faces life in prison without the possibility of parole when he is sentenced on August 22.