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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JURY CONVICTS SERIAL RAPIST

A Merced County jury convicted Atwater resident Candido Servin, 30, of multiple counts of rape and sexual assault following a 10 day trial. According to Deputy District Attorney Rita Carlson, who prosecuted the case, the jury convicted Servin of 17 felonies, including forcible rape, forcible oral copulation, sexual battery, false imprisonment and burglary. In addition, the jury found that enhancement allegations involving the use of a deadly weapon, burglary with the intent to commit rape, and rape of multiple victims to be true.

Between March 5, 2005 and May 19, 2005 Servin entered 5 Atwater residences in order to commit sexual assaults. In 2 of the cases, the victims were able to avoid being sexually assaulted, Carlson said. On June 3, 2005 Servin was caught hiding outside of a young woman's home by the woman and her boyfriend. Following his arrest on prowling and possession of burglary tools charges, Detective Adolfo Lomeli interviewed Servin. Servin, who Lomeli noticed matched the description of the attacker in the previous incidents, confessed to some of the prior sexual attacks. In addition, DNA and fingerprint evidence linked Servin to two of the assaults.

"I would like to thank the victims of these terrible crimes for their courage and patience as this case wound through the court system. It was not easy for them, but justice has been served," said Carlson. "In addition, the jury did a fantastic job during this long trial, as they sifted through the evidence and listened to lengthy taped interviews," Carlson added.

Carlson also noted that the Atwater Police Department prepared the case for trial in a professional and thorough manner, and that Detective Lomeli's patience in a 2 hour interview with the defendant broke the case. "Detective Lomeli's interview of the defendant was a critical piece of evidence. Because Detective Lomeli persevered throughout a lengthy interview, Servin made statements that helped solve these crimes and make prosecution possible," said Carlson.

Servin will be sentenced on July 9, 2007. Due to the nature of his convictions, he faces multiple life sentences.