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NEWS RELEASE

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**Man Convicted of Fatally Shooting Girlfriend,
Dumping Body in Canyon**

A 40-year-old man was convicted today of killing his girlfriend and dumping her body in Hacienda Heights six years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

The jury deliberated for less than a day before finding Francisco Nila Rojas guilty of first-degree murder in case KA094021. Jurors also found true a special allegation that the defendant personally and intentionally used a deadly and dangerous weapon, a gun, which caused great bodily injury and death.

Rojas is scheduled to be sentenced Feb. 27 in Department H of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Pomona Branch. The defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of 50 years to life in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney Babette Huley of the Victim Impact Program, who prosecuted the case, said on Feb. 18, 2011, Rojas shot his girlfriend, Claudia Tecuautzin, 41, in the head.

The defendant then dumped Tecuautzin's body near Turnbull Canyon Road and Skyline Drive in Hacienda Heights. The victim's body was discovered less than a month after she was killed, the prosecutor added.

Five days after the killing, Rojas fled from the United States and went to Mexico. In October 2015, Rojas was located and extradited to Los Angeles County to face criminal prosecution for the killing.

According to evidence presented at trial, Rojas stole money from Tecuautzin's bank accounts before and after she was killed. Additionally, a Ford Explorer that Rojas and the victim co-owned contained remnants of the victim's blood. Also, the car's passenger floor was bleached, the prosecutor said.

Moreover, Rojas purchased a gun on Feb. 12, 2011. The same gun was consistent with bullet fragments recovered from the victim's head, according to expert testimony.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.