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NEWS RELEASE
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**MAN FOUND GUILTY OF 1992 MURDER OF PALM DESERT MAN
WHOSE REMAINS WERE FOUND IN NEVADA STREAMBED**

RIVERSIDE – More than 25 years after a Palm Desert man was reported missing, a Riverside County jury today, Dec. 6, 2017, convicted his murderer.

Russell Jay Huber, DOB: 8-17-58, was found guilty of first-degree murder and jurors found the allegation of lying in wait to be true. Huber is expected to be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole when he returns before Judge Bernard Schwartz on Jan. 12, 2018.

Jurors took about three hours of deliberations to convict Huber after a trial that spanned eight days of evidence presented at the Hall of Justice in Riverside.

On July 6, 1992, Clyde Gregory Hayward, 41, was reported missing by his girlfriend. She had last seen him three days earlier when they made plans for a date on July 6, but he never arrived and was never seen alive again. Hayward's abandoned pickup was found on July 19, 1992, along Highway 95. Law enforcement officers found evidence in that area of a shooting as well as dried blood.

The investigation into Hayward's disappearance went cold until May 2014 when human remains found buried in a streambed at Christmas Tree Pass in Clark County, Nevada in early 1993 were identified through DNA as being Hayward's remains. Riverside County sheriff's Central Homicide Unit Cold Case investigators reopened the case at that time and began working with the Riverside County District Attorney's Office Cold Case Unit in 2016.

In 2016, investigators were notified that fingerprint evidence along with DNA evidence connected Huber with the scene where Hayward's truck was found. Huber's DNA was found on a cigarette butt in Hayward's abandoned pickup and on another cigarette butt found a short distance from the truck near expended shell casings and dried blood.

In February 2017, Huber was arrested with the assistance of U.S. Marshals in Oroville, Calif.

Primary investigators in the case included sheriff's Inv. Jennifer Cole and DA's Inv. Ryan Bodmer.

The case, RIF1606115, was prosecuted by Deputy DA Michael Kersse of the DA's Cold Case Team.

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