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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 20, 2005

Re: Matthew Gooch Parole Hearing

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County Assistant District Attorney Carol Shipley announced today that Matthew Gooch, age 71, of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole at a September 12, 2005 hearing of the State Board of Prison Terms in San Quentin. Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on the brutal and callous nature of the crime and his uncertain parole plans. Gooch killed Franklin Woods with a close range shotgun blast to the neck after Woods stole \$4 from him in a card game. Gooch claimed the shooting was in self defense, but the jury convicted him of second degree murder with a gun use enhancement in 1980.

Gooch is serving a 17 year to life sentence and has previously been denied parole nine times. Matthew Gooch will be scheduled for another hearing in one year.

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