



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney
Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District
Attorneys
Jerry Begen
Steve Casey
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: July 9, 2008

Re: John Ruiz parole denial

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that John Moses Ruiz, age 58, formerly of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole on July 9 at a hearing of the State Board of Prison Hearings at Solano State Prison. Senior Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on lack of rehabilitation, poor parole plans and significant disciplinary history while incarcerated. The Board of Prison Hearings agreed and denied parole for three years.

Ruiz and his crime partner Jesus Felix (also convicted of murder and is still incarcerated) shot and killed Jorge Ortiz and seriously wounded Daniel Venegas during a drug ripoff at the Modesto Inn on September 15, 1988. Ruiz was convicted of murder with the use of a gun on February 29, 1989, and was sentenced to eighteen years to life in prison. He has been incarcerated for this crime for 19 years. This was his third parole hearing. Ruiz was a Norteno gang member on the streets before this crime, and maintained his gang status while incarcerated. He had been arrested 51 times before this murder and had been sent to prison twice previously. He had no employment plans and had inadequate plans to combat his drug addiction if he were to be released.

###