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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Doug Maner

Date: March 24, 2011

Re: Chris Towler parole denial

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that, Chris Towler age 53, was found unsuitable for parole at a March 24, 2011 hearing of the State Board of Prison Hearings at California State Prison Solano. Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on the violent nature of the offense and lack of rehabilitation. The hearing was attended by several of the victims' next of kin who opposed parole.

On February 14, 1986, Towler and crime partners Rudy Blanusa and Ed Haro killed Gilbert and Joseph Flores after they accused them of burglarizing Haro's home. Haro had threatened on several occasions to kill the persons who stole his property and went in search of them with Towler and the co-defendants. The Flores brothers were kidnaped at gunpoint and taken to a remote orchard in rural Stanislaus County where they were shot over ten times by three different guns. Towler and his crime partners then left the Flores brothers to bleed to death in the orchard while they went to a bar and drank beer.

Towler, Haro, and Blanusa were all convicted of two counts of murder and two counts of kidnaping with firearm allegations in 1990, 1988 & 1986, respectively. They were all sentenced to over thirty years to life in prison. Towler was being considered for parole for the first time. He will be scheduled for another hearing in seven years. At a parole hearing last year, Blanusa's parole request was denied for seven years. Haro was released on parole by parole commissioner Arthur Anderson last year and is currently residing in Stanislaus County.