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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: September 23, 2013  
Re: Deborah Erickson

**For More Information Contact:**

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Deborah Erickson, age 61, of Waterford was found unsuitable for parole at a September 11, 2013, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at the women's prison in Chowchilla. Deputy District Attorney Sandra L. Bishop appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on Ms. Erickson's continuing unreasonable risk of danger to the public based on the callous nature of the murder and her poor institutional adjustment. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for 3 years.

On July 23, 1994, Ms. Erickson, then age 41, recruited her 22-year-old son to assist her in killing her boyfriend, Ronald Pruitt. After her son shot the sleeping victim twice, Ms. Erickson and her son staged the crime scene to make it appear that the victim had been killed in the course of a robbery by removing some of his possessions and throwing them in Turlock Reservoir. Deborah Erickson was convicted by a jury of first degree murder with use of a firearm and is serving a 26-years-to-life prison sentence. Ms. Erickson will be scheduled for another hearing in 2016.

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