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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Date: March 12, 2013
Re: Parole denied for Larry Thomas Martin

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Larry Thomas Martin of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole at a February 26, 2013 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings in Corcoran. Deputy District Attorney Jared T. Carrillo appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement. Shortly after the start of the hearing, a defense attorney appearing on Martin's behalf informed the board that Martin agreed he was currently unsuitable for parole, and agreed to waive his right to a hearing for five years. The Board of Prison Hearings agreed and denied parole for 5 years.

In January 1988, Georgine Merrifield was stopped at a red light at the intersection of Briggsmore and Oakdale Road. Martin, who was stopped in the lane next to Merrifield, shot her multiple times killing her. The two were total strangers. Martin later told police he had shot Merrifield because she was running her fingers through her hair. Martin was convicted of first-degree murder in 1990 and is serving a 27 year-to-life prison sentence. Martin, a diagnosed Paranoid-Schizophrenic, has refused to take medication for his illness since 2001. As recently as October 2012, Martin told a prison psychologist that the crime did not happen and that no one was killed.

Martin was previously denied parole in 2010. Martin will be scheduled for another parole hearing in 2018.

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