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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 30, 2014
Re: Parole denied

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Matthew Gooch of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole at an April 8, 2014 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings conducted at the California Health Care Facility, a state prison facility located in Stockton, California. Deputy District Attorney John Goulart appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on the deliberative and cruel manner in which the murder was carried out, Mr. Gooch's complete lack of parole plans, the complete absence of any support system for Mr. Gooch outside of prison, and Mr. Gooch's statement to the hearing panel that he would kill someone who stole from him. The panel, consisting of a Commissioner and a Deputy Commissioner from the Board of Parole Hearings, agreed and denied parole for three years.

On January 3, 1980, on the west side of Modesto, the victim, Franklin Woods, stole four dollars from Matthew Gooch at a card game. This was not the first time Mr. Woods had stolen from Mr. Gooch. Mr. Gooch was quite upset by this, left and returned armed with a loaded shotgun. He approached Mr. Woods and with one shot to the neck killed Mr. Woods. Detective Elvin Thomason of the Modesto Police Department investigated the case and ultimately found and arrested Mr. Gooch who admitted killing Mr. Woods.
(Stanislaus County Case #165760.)

Matthew Gooch was convicted of second degree murder with the use of a firearm in 1980 and is serving a life sentence. He was previously denied parole in 2009. This was his 15th parole hearing.

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