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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 Josefa Benito Hernandez, age 37, formerly of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole at a hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held on April 23, 2014 at Soledad State Prison. Deputy District Attorney Wendell Emerson appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on the brutality of the crime and the defendant's disciplinary issues he has had during his confinement. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for 7 years.

On August 4, 2002, Hernandez drove the female victim to a secluded area in Stanislaus County. Upon arrival, Hernandez beat the victim with a metal bar and raped her in a field. The victim then ran into the roadway to seek help from a passing car. Hernandez dragged the victim back into the field and beat her with the metal bar until he thought she was dead. The victim sustained severe injuries as a result of the rape and beating. On September 15, 2003, Hernandez was convicted of rape and attempted murder and is serving a 13-year-to life prison sentence.

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