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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 16, 2015
Re: Arvind Gopal Parole Hearing

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Arvind Vyas Gopal, formerly of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole at a March 4, 2015 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at the California State Prison in Solano. Senior Deputy District Attorney Elaine G. Casillas appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on the fact Gopal continues to pose an unreasonable danger to safety. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for 5 years.

On June 10, 2003, Gopal was involved in a verbal dispute with Sailesh Narayan. Gopal slashed Mr. Narayan twice with a knife on the side of his head. Mr. Narayan fled with Gopal in pursuit yelling, "I'm going to kill you." After calling 911, Mr. Narayan was treated for lacerations to the nose, face, and temple. Gopal was convicted by a jury on October 2, 2003 of Attempted Murder with Premeditation, Mayhem, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, and Threatening to Commit a Crime. The jury also found that Gopal personally inflicted great bodily injury and personally used a deadly and dangerous weapon. On June 1, 2004, Gopal was sentenced to 12 years to life in state prison.

During the Parole Hearing, Gopal was questioned about his attendance at any domestic violence counseling or classes in prison since he had a history of domestic violence prior to his incarceration. Gopal reported he had not attended any classes during the 10 years he has been incarcerated because he has "just been lazy." While denying Gopal's parole, the Parole Commissioners agreed with Ms. Casillas that Gopal has a "significant history of violence" and "he has not addressed the issues which placed him in his current situation." This was Gopal's first hearing and he will be scheduled for another hearing in five years.

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