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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: November 1, 2018
Re: Juan Palacios-Perez
Kidnap for robbery inmate granted parole

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Juan Palacios-Perez, age 37, was found suitable for parole after serving 20 years of a life sentence at a hearing held October 26, 2018 at the prison in Corcoran, California. Deputy District Attorney Blythe Harris traveled to Corcoran and appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

In March of 1998, Palacios-Perez forced a male victim into the victim's truck at gunpoint outside a convenience store in Modesto. Palacios-Perez got into the driver's seat while his co-responsible, Jose Moreno, got in the passenger side and demanded the victim's wallet. They drove the victim to an ATM where the victim was forced to withdraw money. The victim was then taken to a different convenience store where they tried to force the victim to cash a check made out to them. Instead, the victim notified the store employee who called the Modesto police department. Palacios-Perez was apprehended at the scene and co-defendant Moreno was apprehended a month later.

On May 24, 1999, a Stanislaus County jury found Palacios-Perez guilty of kidnap for robbery, kidnap for carjacking and first-degree robbery each with enhancements for use of a gun. He was sentenced to serve a life sentence in prison plus an additional 10 years for the use of a gun.

Prosecutor Harris argued to the Board that Palacios-Perez was unsuitable for parole on the grounds that he lacked insight into why he committed these crimes, minimized his role to the board and was unable to conform his conduct in the prison setting, having committed several rules violations. Despite this, the Board still granted him parole.

Palacios-Perez was 17 years old at the time of the offense and is considered a "youthful offender" under recent changes in the law qualifying him for early release. The parole board relied on the youthful offender laws when it decided that Palacios-Perez did not pose an unreasonable risk to public safety and could safely be released back into the community.

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