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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 16, 2002

Re: Thomas Odell Coke Parole Hearing

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney James Brazelton announced today that Thomas Odell Coke, 43, was found unsuitable for parole at a January 15, 2002 hearing of the State Board of Prison Terms in Soledad. Deputy District Attorney Michael Houston appeared at the hearing.

Coke was convicted of First Degree Murder with the use of a gun in 1978 when he shot and killed James Dudley Walton, 20, of Ceres. The Ceres shooting occurred because Coke was jealous of the girl Walton was seeing at the time.

Coke is serving 7 years to life and has previously been denied parole 9 times. He will be scheduled for another hearing in 3 years.

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