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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 18, 2003

Re: Mathew Gooch Parole Hearing

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney James Brazelton announced today that Mathew Gooch, age 68, was found unsuitable for parole during a July 17th, 2003 hearing of the State Board of Prison Terms held at San Quentin Prison in San Quentin.

Deputy District Attorney Carolyn Matzger appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People of the State of California and argued for continued confinement based on Gooch's prior criminal record and the callous nature of the crime for which he was convicted.

On January 3, 1980, Gooch killed Franklin Woods Jr. with a close range shotgun blast to the neck after Woods stole \$4 from him in a card game. Gooch claimed the shooting was in self defense but a jury convicted him of second degree murder with a gun use enhancement. He was sentenced to 17 years to life in state prison.

Gooch has previously been denied parole at least four times. He will be eligible for another parole hearing in one year.

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