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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 24, 2004

Re: Parole Hearing on Manuel Barcello

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney James Brazelton announced today that Manuel Barcello, age 43, was found unsuitable for parole at a March 23, 2004 hearing of the State Board of Prison Terms held at Avenal State Prison.

During the commission of a home invasion robbery, 78 year old George Shafer was bound, gagged, and hog-tied in his Riverbank home by Barcello and his crime partner, Rodrigo Orozco in the early morning of May 5, 1983. During this 1 ½ hour ordeal, several of Mr. Shafer's ribs were broken. He was discovered the next day by Sheriff Deputies, while performing a house check, after the victim's daughter reported that the victim hadn't made his usual daily phone call. Mr. Shafer was found with his hands tied behind his back with a rope, his legs tied with a blanket, and a rope wrapped around his neck. There was also a piece of ceramic stuffed in his mouth, and held in place by an elastic strap that was tied behind his head in a knot. The autopsy revealed that the victim died a slow and painful death due to asphyxiation when his tongue was forced back towards his throat by the gag which held his tongue to the roof of his mouth. Although the victim's house was ransacked, the only items taken were two handguns. The guns were later sold for \$25, which Barcello and his crime partner split.

Barcello was convicted of second degree murder. Barcello is currently serving a 15 year to life sentence and has previously been denied parole three times.

Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar appeared at the parole hearing and successfully argued for continued confinement based on the callous nature of the crime for which he was convicted, and that he still posed an unreasonable risk of harm to society. Barcello is scheduled for another parole hearing in two years.