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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 13, 2006
Re: Efrain Ceja-Rodriguez lifer hearing

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Efrain Ceja-Rodriguez of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole at a hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held July 10th, 2006 at Corcoran State Prison.

Ceja-Rodriguez shot and killed Rene Martinez and also wounded Andres Vasquez during a February 26th, 1994 shooting at Lupe's Bar on North McHenry Avenue in Modesto. After that, on March 19th, 1994 he shot and killed Juan Rivera in the parking lot of a bar on South First Street in Turlock. Deputy District Attorney Mike Stone appeared at the parole hearing on behalf of the District Attorney's Office and argued against Ceja-Rodriguez's release based on the brutality of the multiple crimes involved against different victims. After hearing oral argument, the State Board of Parole Hearings denied Ceja-Rodriguez's bid for parole for a four-year period.

Ceja-Rodriguez was convicted of second degree murder for the killing of Martinez and voluntary manslaughter in the death of Rivera. He is currently serving a 19 years-to-life prison sentence. This was Ceja-Rodriguez's first parole hearing. He will be eligible for another parole hearing in 2011.