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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: March 12, 2009

Re: TERESA PATTERSON PAROLE DENIAL

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Teresa Patterson age 39 , formerly of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole at a March 11, 2009 hearing of the State Board of Prison Hearings at Central California Institute for Women, in Chowchilla. Senior Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on lack of rehabilitation, poor parole plans and significant disciplinary history while incarcerated. The Board of Prison Hearings agreed and denied parole for 10 years.

Patterson was convicted of first degree murder by torture and child abuse causing great bodily injury of 3 year old Jerome Martin in 1990 , and was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison . She has been incarcerated for this crime for 19 years. This was her initial parole hearing.

Patterson lived with her Jerome's mother, Ivy Martin, in a small trailer in Modesto. Jerome was entrusted to Patterson's care while Martin was at work. Patterson abused the child for a 6 month period prior to his death, inflicting serious injuries including a fractured arm, separated shoulder, cigarette burns to his chest, scarring to his face and neck from fingernail scratches, and bladder damage caused by refusing to let him urinate. She finally killed him with a blow to the head on January 7, 1989. Both women planned to put Jerome up for adoption, but were never able to as he was too bruised and injured to be exposed to the authorities. Martin permitted the abuse to occur and refused to call for help once the child suffered his final injury. Instead of seeking medical care, the couple purchased drugs and consumed them while the baby was dying in the next room. Once Jerome had died, they buried him in a shallow grave in an orchard, and claimed he was kidnaped.

Both women were convicted of murder and child abuse at separate trials and sentenced to life terms in prison. Neither has admitted full responsibility for Jerome's abuse prior to his death, and they have claimed the death was accidental, despite significant evidence to the contrary. Martin is scheduled for a parole hearing on March 18, 2009.

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