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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Carol Shipley, Assistant District Attorney

Re: Three inmates serving life sentences are
denied parole dates

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Isodoro Carrillo Martinez, Leopoldo Navarete Canedo, and Arthur Dale Oliver were all found unsuitable for parole at separate hearings of the State Board of Parole Hearings at Avenal State Prison in Avenal on Wednesday, March 25. Deputy District Attorney Steve Casey appeared at the hearings and argued for continued confinement. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for an additional 5 years on Martinez and Canedo and for 3 years on Oliver.

In 1988, Martinez was convicted of murdering 38 year-old Antonio Nesta in 1987 and also of stealing Mr. Nesta's car. Antonio Nesta was a co-worker of Martinez at a dairy on Langworth Road in Stanislaus County. Martinez was sentenced to 26 years-to-life in prison. Though Martinez would be deported if he were granted parole, he did not have suitable employment plans and still posed an unacceptable risk of re-offending.

In 1986, Canedo was convicted of robbing a man at knife point outside a convenience store on South Ninth Street in Modesto in 1985 and then, about 15 minutes later, shooting Ernest Morales to death at the Sea Breeze Motel on South Ninth Street during a dispute over the purchase of heroin. Canedo was sentenced to 15 years-to-life. Though Canedo would be deported if he were granted parole, he, also, did not have suitable employment plans and still posed an unacceptable risk of re-offending.

In 1996, Oliver pled guilty to carjacking, robbery, and kidnapping during the carjacking and was sentenced to a "life" sentence with the possibility of parole. In 1995, Oliver and several other people including his mother and brother beat and kidnapped 74 year-old William Smith, who was sleeping in his car on Yosemite Boulevard in Modesto. After the beating, Mr. Smith was put in the trunk of his car and was eventually driven to a field and locked into an irrigation pipe and left to die. Because the 21 year-old Arthur Oliver left before Mr. Smith was taken to the field and put into the irrigation pipe by the others, he was not held responsible for the murder. Though Oliver has addressed his drug problem and completed several training programs while in prison, he still needs further planning for stable housing and employment before being paroled.

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