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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: February 1, 2010
Re: Parole Denied for Six Defendants
Sentenced to Life in Prison

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that the following defendants who were previously sentenced to life in prison have been found unsuitable for parole:

Surya Chand, age 60, of Seattle. Chand was convicted of the murder of Suruj Mahibir, attempted murder of Silochana Mangal and felony hit and run charges on April 29, 1983. He is serving 22 years-to-life and has been previously denied parole four times. The offenses occurred on November 7, 1981 when Chand was at a wedding reception. He was drunk and involved in several fistfights. After the reception ended, and the guests entered the parking lot, he drove his car at them at a high speed, with the lights out, striking two victims, killing one and seriously injuring a child. Due to budget constraints, the District Attorney's Office did not attend the hearing at California State Prison, Solano, but submitted a letter opposing Chand's release. Chand agreed that he was not ready for parole and agreed to a three year denial of parole.

Jonie Dietzman, age 48, formerly of Modesto Dietzman pled guilty to first degree murder in 1994 and was sentenced to life in prison. This was her initial parole hearing. The defendant committed the murder during a home invasion robbery when Dietzman's co-defendant, Michael Stevens, demanded drugs and money from victim Jose Calderon and then shot him in the face with a shotgun at point blank range as he was begging for his life in front of his wife. As the victim lay dying, Dietzman rifled through his pockets for cash and robbed five other visitors while Stevens had them at gunpoint. Due to budget constraints, the District Attorney's office did not attend the hearing at the Valley State Prison for Women in Chowchilla, but submitted a letter opposing Dietzman's release. The State Board of Prison Hearing denied parole for 7 years.

Amador Gallegos, age 46, formerly of San Jose Gallegos was convicted of second degree murder of his girlfriend in 1999 and was sentenced to life in prison. This was his initial parole hearing. The murder occurred during an alcohol and drug induced state when the defendant severely beat his girlfriend and strangled her to death. Senior Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the hearing at Avenal State Prison to oppose the parole. Just as the hearing

was to start, Gallegos agree that he was not ready to be paroled and was given a 5 year denial by the State Board of Prison Hearings.

Terry Clark, age 60, of Modesto Clark was convicted of murder and attempted voluntary manslaughter in 1982 and was sentenced to 23 years-to-life in state prison. He has previously been denied parole seven times. The offense occurred in 1982 when Clark and co-defendant William Smith shot and killed Harold Parker and wounded Lonnie Duford because they mistakenly believed they had stolen property from them and molested Smith's wife two weeks earlier. The defendants lured the victims into a residence by promising to sell them methamphetamine and ambushed them once they arrived. Senior Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the hearing at the California State Prison, Solano, to oppose Clark's release. The Board of Prison Hearings denied parole for 3 years.

John Free, age 59, formerly of Modesto Free was convicted of Murder in 1980 and was sentenced to 18 years-to-life in prison. This was his eighth parole hearing. The offense occurred on October 18, 1979 when the defendant and his brother, Joe, stabbed Luther Fear six times, and then shot him twice at close range with a .45 caliber pistol over a dispute regarding a woman that all three had been involved with. The defendant's prison disciplinary record includes two stabbings and weapons offenses that resulted in him being locked down in the most secure facility available. Senior Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the hearing at the California State Prison, Solano, to oppose Free's release. The Board of Prison Hearings denied parole for 3 years.

Catarino Martinez, age 42, formerly of Modesto Martinez was convicted of attempted murder and spousal battery in September of 1998 and was sentenced to life in prison. This was his third parole hearing. The offense occurred on April 19, 1998 when Martinez lured his wife, who was planning on divorcing him, into his home. Once inside, he attacked her from behind and stabbed her five times. She escaped and was able to get away. Martinez then destroyed evidence of the crime and concocted a false story to explain her wounds. Senior Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the hearing at the California State Prison, Solano, to oppose Martinez's release. The Board of Prison Hearings denied parole for 2 years.