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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: October 21, 2010

Re: Salter parole denial

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that George Salter, age 50, formerly of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole at an October 21st hearing of the State Board of Prison Hearings at Duell Vocational Institute in Tracy. Senior Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner opposed parole and requested continued confinement based on lack of rehabilitation.

In November of 1988, Salter worked in a Modesto bar as a bouncer. He and several bar patrons noticed an intoxicated elderly man who had just cashed his social security check and was displaying a large amount of cash. They decided to rob him and followed him to his campsite by the Tuolumne River where he was hit on the head with a baseball bat, stabbed multiple times and mutilated after death. Salter claimed that he only intended to help a friend collect a debt and tried to distance himself from the murder and mutilation of the victim; notwithstanding the fact that he hit a defenseless victim on the head with a bat while his crime partner was assaulting him, and then robbed him of all his money.

In 2009, the parole board had ordered Salter's release from prison. The Governor, however, reversed this decision stating the murder "was especially heinous" because the victim was "especially vulnerable," that Salter had "not accepted complete responsibility for his role in this matter," and "that his release from prison ... would create an unreasonable risk to public safety."

The inmate was convicted of murder, conspiracy to commit robbery and robbery in 1988 and was sentenced to life in prison. This was his ninth parole hearing; he has been incarcerated for over twenty years.