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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 27, 2016
Re: Parole Denial/Moises Mendoza

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Moises Mendoza, age 34, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole at a May 25, 2016 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the state prison facility in Corcoran, California. Deputy District Attorney Merrill Houlton represented the People.

On June 14, 2002, Mendoza belonged to "Brick City," a known Sureno criminal street gang. He and his brother got into an argument with a rival gang member outside a Modesto home. Mendoza's brother brandished a handgun and shot at the rival several times but missed. Mendoza threw a rock at the house and yelled, "It's Brick City right here," a gang phrase indicating to the rival he was on the wrong "turf." Mendoza later pulled out a gun and fired three shots at the house. Although no one was injured, there were several people inside the home at the time including a 2-year old girl.

In July of 2003, a jury convicted Mendoza of shooting at an inhabited residence, assault with a firearm, and found true an enhancement for participating in a criminal street gang. He was sentenced to 15-years-to-life in state prison.

While incarcerated, Mendoza has violated prison rules on several occasions, including possessing weapons and cell phones. He has also refused to participate in rehabilitation programs. A clinical assessment by a mental health professional found that Mendoza was still a high risk for violence if released on parole. Prior to the start of the hearing, Mendoza agreed that his parole should be denied for 3 years, a common tactic designed to avoid a longer term of denial if the hearing went forward.

This was Mendoza's first scheduled parole hearing; he will be eligible for another parole hearing in 2019.

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