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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 17, 2017
Re: Juan Manuel Palacios- Perez
Parole Denial

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Juan Manuel Palacios- Perez, age 35, of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole at a May 9, 2017 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Chuckawalla Valley State Prison in Blythe, CA.

At 2:00 a.m. on May 16, 1998, Palacios-Perez and co-defendant Jose Moreno kidnapped the victim at gunpoint from in front of a convenience store in Modesto. As the victim was returning to his truck, Palacios- Perez pushed the victim from behind while holding a gun to his head saying, "if you make a false move, I'm gonna kill you." Palacios- Perez got into the driver's seat while Moreno got into the passenger side.

Palacios- Perez drove the truck out of the parking lot. They took the victim's checkbook and wallet and drove to an ATM, forcing the victim to withdraw money. Palacios- Perez then demanded that the victim write out a check to them so that they could cash it. While in a grocery store, the victim was able to alert a clerk that he had been carjacked and to call 911. The police responded and both defendants were arrested.

Palacios-Perez and Moreno were both convicted at jury trial of kidnapping for the purposes of carjacking, using a gun and carjacking. They were both sentenced to life in prison.

In a letter to the parole board, Deputy District Attorney Mangar argued against release on parole based on the danger that Palacios- Perez still poses to the community as shown by his actions while incarcerated. Since going to prison, Palacios- Perez has been issued serious rule violations for manufacturing alcohol, possessing a weapon, disobeying prison guards and flooding his cell. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for three years.

This was Palacios- Perez's fourth parole hearing. His next parole hearing is scheduled for the year 2020, but may be advanced as a result of recent changes in the law.

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