



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Assistant District Attorney
Dave Harris

Chief Deputies
Doug Raynaud
Annette Rees
Marlisa Ferreira

Bureau of Investigation
Lt. David Hutchinson
Lt. Froilan Mariscal

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 7, 2017
Re: Juan Mendiola
Parole Denied

For More Information Contact:

John Goold, Public Information Liaison
Phone: (209) 525-6909

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Juan Mendiola, age 43, of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole during an August 10, 2017 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the prison facility in Chowchilla, California. Deputy District Attorney Michael Karimi appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On May 26, 1994, Mendiola was involved in the fatal shooting of Enrique Cuevas, age 19, and Francisco Vega, age 35, in front of a market on Robertson Road in Modesto during an apparent robbery. At the time of the killing, Mendiola and his friends were seeking money to buy alcohol. One victim was found with \$20 clutched in his hands.

In July of 1996, Mendiola pled to two counts of second degree murder with use of a gun and was sentenced to two concurrent 16 years-to-life terms in state prison. While in prison, Mendiola continued to associate himself with the Northern Structure prison gang and committed various rules violations. Despite this, Mendiola was paroled in October of 2014. After only 11 months of freedom, he was returned to prison custody when he violated parole by threatening and harassing an ex-girlfriend.

During the hearing, Deputy District Attorney Karimi argued against releasing Mendiola on parole for a second time based upon his actions when released in 2014. Karimi argued that Mendiola's actions showed an entrenched impulsivity and criminality that represented an unreasonable risk to public safety if he were to be paroled. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for one year. He will then be eligible for another hearing, if not sooner.

###