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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: November 21, 2018
Re: Timothy Charles Fee
Convicted killer sentenced

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Timothy Charles Fee, age 38, of Modesto, has been sentenced to 59 years to life in prison for the murder of David Heath of Modesto. Deputy District Attorney Randy Fischer prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On August 8, 2016, victim David Heath was seen leaving his house late in the evening by his wife. Three days later, on August 11, a jogger in Patterson saw Heath's body floating in the Delta Mendota canal. An autopsy concluded that Heath had been strangled before being dumped in the water for two or more days.

On August 12, 2016, Timothy Fee and a Jairo Ramirez were contacted by Modesto Police in the Wendy's parking lot on McHenry Ave at 11:00 am. Heath's white Dodge Durango was found nearby and the keys to the Durango were in Fee's pocket. Police also located the victim's money clip and cell phone in Fee's possession. Sheriff department detectives found surveillance video showing Fee driving the same Durango on August 9th when the two pawned a gold coin belonging to the victim.

Mr. Fee gave a detailed statement to the detectives where he implicated himself in Heath's disappearance. He even took detectives to the place on the Delta Mendota canal where he and Ramirez had dumped Heath's body into the water.

At the time of this offense, Fee was on parole from state prison having been convicted of kidnapping in Stanislaus County and bringing drugs into a jail/prison in Tuolumne County.

On September 18, 2018, a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury found Fee guilty of first degree murder. The jury also found that Fee had previously been convicted of a violent felony, served a prior prison term, and was out on bail at the time of the murder pending sentencing on another case for being a felon in possession of a handgun.

During a sentencing hearing on November 16th, Judge Rick Distaso sentenced Fee to serve 25 years to life in state prison which was increased due to his prior “strike” conviction and other enhancements.

Co-defendant Ramirez was previously convicted of voluntary manslaughter on August 6, 2018 and sentenced to serve 14 years in state prison for his role in the crime.

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