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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: December 10, 2018
Re: Jose Rodriguez
Sexual offender granted parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jose Rodriguez, age 57, of Modesto, was granted parole during a December 5, 2018, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the state prison in Avenal, California. Deputy District Attorney Michael Houston appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

Rodriguez was convicted in 1998 of several violent sex crimes including rape, sodomy, penetration with a foreign object and oral copulation. During the crimes he used a knife to maintain control over the 17-year-old victim. He was subsequently arrested, convicted and sentenced to serve 15 years to life in state prison.

Prosecutor Houston argued to the Board that Rodriguez should not be released, noting that he failed to provide the Board with any "self-help" program to address his sexual addiction and failed to bring to the hearing an alleged "rape relapse plan" he claimed to have had. Houston said that Rodriguez's answers appeared contrived, disingenuous and based upon something he had recently been told or read. An apology letter Rodriguez had written to the victim only two and a half months ago seemed not the product of genuine remorse but in response to what he had been told to say by a prison clinician. Based upon all of the above, Houston requested that parole be denied because Rodriguez still posed an unreasonable risk of danger to the community.

In granting parole, the Board acknowledged that the facts of the original crime were horrific and that Rodriguez had an unstable social history. The Commissioners noted that in the 20 years since he was sent to prison, Rodriguez did not commit any major rule violations involving violence and, in their view, showed genuine remorse at the hearing and accepted full responsibility for his actions.

Rodriguez had previously been denied parole in 2010, 2013, 2016 and, most recently, 2017.

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