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CORRECTED PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: August 3, 2020
Re: Leopoldo Navarette Canedo
Convicted killer granted parole

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Leopoldo Navarette Canedo, of Modesto, was granted parole at the conclusion of a hearing before the Board of Parole Hearings held at the Sierra Conservation Center in Tuolumne County on July 29, 2020. Deputy District Attorney John Goold appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

In 1985, Canedo was a drug user and seller in Modesto. He and a co-defendant robbed two teenagers in front of a convenience store on South Ninth Street. He told the victims if they called police he would kill them both.

Later that same day, Canedo went and confronted a man in the parking lot at the Sea Breeze Hotel who Canedo said owed him money. After that person went and got a friend, Ernesto Morales, to help him get the money back, Canedo shot and killed Morales with the same shotgun he had used to rob the two teenagers. He was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to serve life in prison.

Deputy District Attorney Goold argued against Canedo's release on parole arguing that the inmate continues to minimize his prior conduct, had insufficient parole plans and that he still posed a moderate risk of violence to the community as opined by a prison psychologist who evaluated Canedo in 2018. After hearing arguments from both prosecution and defense, the Board deliberated for fifteen minutes before granting Canedo parole.

Canedo was 36 years old when he committed the life crime and is now age 70. The Board felt Canedo's advanced age and lack of any rule violations for the last 13 years reduced the probability of him returning to prison and supported releasing him on parole. Canedo also has a deportation order in place which may result in returning him to Mexico upon release.

This was Canedo's seventh parole hearing. He had previously been denied parole six times.

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