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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: November 24, 2020
Re: Santiago Zamora
Parole Denied

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Santiago Zamora, age 58, formerly of Turlock and Arizona, was denied parole during a November 17, 2020, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Mule Creek Prison in Ione, California. Deputy District Attorney Merrill Hoult appeared on behalf of the People.

Zamora was convicted of first-degree murder for the February 4, 1994 shooting death of his friend, Raul Robledo. Zamora shot the victim in the head two times and then fled the crime scene. Officers found Zamora in a truck along with blood, the victim's missing shoe and a bullet casing. Zamora later admitted to shooting the victim. After a jury trial, Zamora was found guilty of first-degree murder with enhancements for using a firearm and committing the murder while he was out on bail for two unrelated criminal crimes.

At the hearing, Deputy District Attorney Hoult asked the Board to deny parole since Zamora currently poses a high risk of danger to society. Hoult argued that Zamora lacked insight into what caused him to commit the senseless murder and that his parole plans will not prevent the risk of future violence. The victim's family members were in attendance and the victim's daughter, Rosalia Robledo, urged the Board to deny Zamora's parole. She told the Board that Zamora should not be released since she and her family have had to live without the victim for over 26 years.

The Board agreed that Zamora still displayed limited insight into what caused him to commit the murder and denied parole for three years. Zamora is serving a 36-years-to-life prison sentence. He will be eligible for another parole hearing in 2023 or sooner if the hearing is advanced under recent changes to the law.

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