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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 27, 2021
Re: Nahu Soria Rodriguez
Convicted shooter denied parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Nahu Soria Rodriguez, age 53, of Riverbank, was found unsuitable for parole during a December 30, 2020 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Solano State Prison, Vacaville. Deputy District Attorney Darrell Griffin, Jr. appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On July 23, 1993, Rodriguez had been drinking all day with neighbors. Around 6 p.m. he became enraged at victim Andres Lopez, accusing him of having an affair with his wife. After trying to hit Lopez with a stick and choke him, Rodriguez went into the house, retrieved a shotgun and came back outside. He fired one round at Lopez, saying "I'm going to kill this castrated bull." Pellets struck Lopez in the face including both eyes, chest and hand. Lopez never recovered his vision and remains blinded from the incident.

Rodriguez fled the scene but was identified by witnesses. After two years on the run, he was arrested and charged. On March 28, 1996, he pled guilty to premeditated attempted murder with an enhancement for inflicting great bodily injury and personally being armed with a firearm. He was sentenced to serve life in prison plus 4 years.

During the parole hearing, Rodriguez told the Board that his crimes were primarily caused by his alcoholism and cultural upbringing. Rodriguez was also evasive and at times outright dishonest to the Board about his involvement in previous crimes including having participated in a prison riot requiring the use of force in 2015.

A prison psychologist who examined Rodriguez in 2018 gave the opinion that he posed a moderate risk for violence to the community if he were to be released.

The victim appeared at the hearing with his wife and adult son asking the Board to deny release. The son told the panel how this crime left the victim blinded for life, unable to see either of his children who were born after the shooting.

Prosecutor Griffin argued against Rodriguez's release on parole based upon the nature of the offense, his lack of insight into why he committed the crime, his prior criminal history and continued criminal actions while in prison, dishonesty to the board during the hearing and the continuing threat of danger he posed to the public.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board denied parole for three years. This was his fifth parole hearing, having previously been denied parole in 2007, 2009, 2014 and 2019.

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