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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 20, 2022
Re: Edgar Arrellano
Parole Granted for Inmate Guilty of Murder,
Assault with Deadly Weapon, and Robbery

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Edgar Arrellano, age 40, of Modesto was found suitable for parole during a January 7, 2022 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Valley State Prison in Chowchilla. Deputy District Attorney Amy Elliott Neumann appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People to argue against Arrellano’s release.

In the early morning hours of June 16, 1997, Arrellano and a friend were on their way home from a party when they decided to rob a donut shop on Crows Landing Road in Modesto. Arrellano, then age 15, was a member of the criminal street gang “Parklawn Boyz” and known by the gang moniker “Beast.” Victims Mike My, Kenny Ung and Conrad Ung were in the store making donuts for the coming day.

As they entered, Arrellano, who was armed with a handgun, pointed the gun at Kenny Ung and demanded money from the cash register. Ung refused. When customer Daniel Nieto, an unarmed and uniformed security guard, began to move towards him, Arrellano shot Nieto, mortally wounding him. Victim Mike My retrieved a firearm and tried to shoot Arrellano who then jumped over the counter and shot My in both arms. Arrellano next shot Conrad Ung, wounding him in the hip and leg. Arrellano continued demanding money and even tried to open the cash register himself but was unsuccessful. He and his friend finally fled the store without getting anything after shooting at least five shots at three victims. Daniel Nieto died later that day from his gunshot wounds.

Police arrested Arrellano several days later and found the gun belonging to victim My in his possession. During an interview he confessed to the robbery and shooting. Tried as an adult, Arrellano was convicted by a Stanislaus County jury of murder, assault with a deadly weapon, and robbery. He was sentenced in 1999 to serve 40 years-to-life in prison.

At the parole hearing on January 7th, Arrellano accepted responsibility for the robbery and killing, expressed remorse for what he did and discussed the extensive programming he has engaged in over the last 21 years in prison custody to address his criminality. Prosecutor Neumann urged the

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Board to deny parole because of the extremely callous and violent nature of Arrellano's crimes, and to direct Arrellano to engage in further substance addiction rehabilitation programming.

After deliberations, the Board determined that Arrellano did not pose an unreasonable risk to public safety and granted parole. The Board noted that Arrellano had been discipline free since 2008, had participated in extensive programming classes, received several commendations and furthered his education. The Board also gave great weight to the "youthful offender" parole criteria since Arrellano was 15 years old at the time of his crimes.

This was Arrellano's first parole hearing. The Board's decision now advances to the Decision Review Unit which has 120 days to review the grant of parole. If the Decision Review Unit approves the decision, Governor Newsom will then have 30 days to reverse, modify, refer to the full Board sitting *en banc*, or let the grant of parole stand.

Arrellano, who was born in Mexico, is currently subject to an immigration hold and may be deported to Mexico upon his release from prison.

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