



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: July 1, 2022  
Re: Santiago Garcia Zamora  
Convicted Killer Denied Parole

### **For More Information Contact:**

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Santiago Garcia Zamora, age 60, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole during a June 15, 2022 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the California State Prison in Corcoran. Deputy District Attorney Victoria Vasquez appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On February 4, 1994, Zamora shot and killed his friend of fifteen years, Raul Robledo. He then drove his pickup truck into several nearby residential driveways honking his horn and yelling and screaming. When Turlock police responded, they found Zamora had blood on his hands, shirt and pants. There was blood on the floorboards of the truck, several .45 caliber shell casings and a slipper belonging to the victim. A husband and wife driving home found Robledo's body lying in the roadway and called 911. Robledo was deceased and there were two obvious gunshot wounds to his head. The next afternoon, a citizen found a .45 caliber handgun a half mile from the crime scene and turned it over to police.

Zamora initially gave law enforcement a false name. He told them someone else killed Robledo and then made him shoot the victim in the head. In a later interview, Zamora admitted to the murder but told Detectives he did not know why he did it. Zamora also claimed to have been on a four-day binge of using alcohol and cocaine, however law enforcement did not believe he was under the influence at the time and noted that he answered their questions without any difficulty.

On July 22, 1994, Zamora was convicted by a Stanislaus Superior Court jury of first-degree premeditated murder with an enhancement for using a firearm and two out on bail enhancements for failing to appear for sentencing after previously being convicted of drug crimes. On August 18, 1994, Zamora was ordered to serve a total of 36 years-to-life in state prison.

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While incarcerated, Zamora was convicted of selling controlled substances in prison in 2003 and possessing controlled substances in 2007. He received an addition six years on both cases consecutive to his original 36-year prison term. Zamora also had multiple serious rules violations including possession of controlled substances, conspiracy to sell controlled substances, fighting and several lesser rule violations.

In 2016, Zamora told a prison psychologist that he did not know why he shot Robledo. That psychologist gave the opinion that Zamora posed a high risk for future violence if released into the community. In 2019, Zamora told a different psychologist that he and the victim had argued over money. That psychologist believed Zamora only posed a moderate risk of violence if released on parole.

At the parole hearing on June 9<sup>th</sup>, Zamora cried and blamed his use of drugs and alcohol for the murder of his longtime friend. Prosecutor Vasquez argued against Zamora's release based on the nature of his crime, his violations of prison rules and felony convictions while in prison custody as well as his poorly formed parole plans.

Following deliberations, the Board denied parole for a period of three years. The Board found Zamora was an unreasonable risk of danger to society if released. The Board cited several factors, including Zamora's "cruel, hateful, and senseless acts," his failure to admit he recently obtained controlled substances from another inmate for pain management, minimizing his association with a prison gang when he was selling controlled substances within the prison and his lack of credibility when discussing his substance abuse issues during the hearing.

This was Zamora's second denial of parole since he became eligible for parole consideration in 2015. He previously waived his right to a hearing in 2016 and 2017. His next hearing will be scheduled sometime in 2025, however he may petition the Board for an earlier date if he can demonstrate a change in circumstances.

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