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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 28, 2022
Re: Nahu Soria Rodriguez
Attempted Murder Inmate denied parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Nahu Soria Rodriguez, age 55, formerly of Riverbank was found unsuitable for parole during a September 14, 2022 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings conducted at Solano State Prison in Vacaville, California. Deputy District Attorney Amy Elliott Neumann 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 and disfigured from the incident to this day.

Rodriguez fled to Mexico. 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 with the possibility of parole.

At his hearing on September 14th, the Parole Board expressed concern over Rodriguez's multiple rule violations for possession of cell phones, gang participation and alleged narcotic smuggling during his incarceration which indicated continued criminal thinking and behavior.

Rodriguez testified and told the Board a different story this time, claiming that he was not jealous of the victim but retrieved the shotgun because he feared that Lopez would win in a physical fight and he was worried about his own pride if he lost. This contradicted Rodriguez's previous statements where he told the Parole Board, and a psychologist who examined him just months before this hearing, that his jealousy was the cause of his anger and the motivation for shooting the victim.

Deputy District Attorney Neumann argued against parole based on Rodriguez's lack of insight and lack of credibility during his testimony. The prosecutor requested a 3-year parole denial based on

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the safety risk that Rodriguez still poses to the community if released and his lack of genuine insight into the crime. Members of the victim's family also spoke against parole and about their fears of reprisal and harm if Rodriguez were to be released.

After deliberations, the Board of Parole Hearings agreed that Rodriguez lacked the necessary insight to justify release and denied parole for three years. The Board determined that Rodriguez needed additional time to address the causative factors for his crime, lacked credibility in his testimony before the Board and still posed a current danger to the public if he were to be released.

This was Rodriguez's sixth subsequent parole hearing after having most recently been denied parole for three years in 2020.

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