



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: November 30, 2023  
Re: Robert Aguilera Moreno  
Convicted Murder Denied Parole

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

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Robert Aguilera Moreno, age 46, of Turlock was found unsuitable for parole at an August 18, 2023 State Board of Parole Hearing at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad. Deputy District Attorney Holly MacKinnon appeared on behalf of the People.

On March 4, 1999, Moreno, an active member of the Sureños gang, shot and killed 17-year-old Juan Pinon at Nino's Market in Turlock. Moreno shot Juan Pinon three times in the face and head and fired six more times into his vehicle. Earlier that day Moreno and his friends had seen Juan Pinon's car driven by rival gang members flashing gang signs and making threats. When they heard the same car was at Nino's Market they arrived with bats and sticks, and Moreno had brought a rifle. Three juveniles and two other adults were arrested with Moreno. Juan Pinon left behind a girlfriend who was eight-months pregnant, parents, numerous siblings and extended family members.

In March of 2000, a jury found Moreno guilty of first-degree murder, intentional use of a firearm, and aiding a criminal street gang. He was sentenced to 52 years-to-life in state prison.

A prison psychologist who examined Moreno prior to the parole hearing gave the opinion that he currently posed a moderate risk for future violence if he were to be released into the community. Moreno remained an active member of gangs while in prison up until he disassociated from the Sureños in 2019, and the psychologist stated he was still vulnerable to the influence of criminally oriented peers due to his loyalty to his gang and the gang lifestyle.

Prosecutor MacKinnon asked the Board to deny parole, due to Moreno's very recent gang association. She argued the brutality and callousness of his life crime combined with his lack of sufficient insight into why he suddenly and viciously killed a young man made him a current unreasonable risk of danger to the community if he were to be released from prison.

Juan Pinon's family members appeared at Moreno's parole hearing and gave statements to the Board. They shared the traumatic affect Juan Pinon's murder had on their entire extended family. They are adamantly against Moreno's release.

After deliberations, the Board denied release for three years. The Board gave great weight to youthful offender factors due to the fact that Moreno was 21-years-old at the time of the crime. The Board stated Moreno had shown progress in some areas, but he had not sufficiently internalized his programming. The Board felt his programming had not been sustained for a sufficient period of time given the callousness of his crime and his lack of insight into how he could violently murder Juan Pinon who had previously prevented others attacking Moreno when Moreno's son was present. The Board encouraged Moreno to develop a more sufficient relapse prevention plan and to continue to participate in vocational and self-help programming.

This was Moreno's first parole hearing. He will be eligible for another parole hearing in 2026 although that date may be advanced based upon a change in circumstances.

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