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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: December 15, 2023
Re: Dale Guttierrez
Convicted killer denied parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Dale Guttierrez, age 42, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole during a December 5, 2023, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the Correctional Training Facility State Prison in Soledad. Deputy District Attorney Amy Elliott Neumann appeared at the hearing to represent the interests of the People of Stanislaus County.

On February 21, 1999, Norteño gang member Dale Guttierrez was with two other gang members as they were leaving a crowded party of over 50 people, when he pulled out a concealed firearm and began shooting at the unarmed crowd. To portray himself as a crazy, violent gang member, Guttierrez recklessly fired his gun behind him and killed his 15-year-old friend. No one at the party was shooting at Guttierrez or his friends. Guttierrez and his friends fired over 50 rounds into the crowd at the party, killing one and wounding three other men. The jury found Guttierrez guilty of premeditated first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder, four counts of attempted murder and participation in a criminal street gang. Guttierrez was sentenced to 155 years-to-life in prison.

Because Guttierrez was 18 years old at the time of the crime, his parole date was advanced, and the Board was required to give substantial weight and consideration to his youth factors.

At the parole hearing, Deputy District Attorney Neumann urged the Board not to release Guttierrez because of his 2023 serious prison rule violation, the need for more programming to address his persistent criminal thinking, the failure to program for his co-dependency issues, and the callous disregard for human life exhibited in his life crime.

After deliberations, the Board determined that while Guttierrez qualified for youthful offender considerations, he posed a current risk to public safety. The Board commended Guttierrez on his self-help programming efforts and parole plans, but the Board determined that Guttierrez's recent discipline problem indicated persistent criminality and lack of offender change. The Board determined that Guttierrez needed to remain discipline free and needed to internalize his self-help programming. The Board denied parole for three years.

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