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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: December 29, 2023
Re: Anthony Gunter
Three Striker Denied Parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Anthony Gunter, age 65, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole at a December 13, 2023 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at Mule Creek State Prison. Deputy District Attorney Victoria Vasquez appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on inmate Gunter's lengthy prior criminal history, his failure to take responsibility for his offenses, continued minimization of his offenses and lack of insight. The Board of Parole Hearings denied Inmate Gunter parole for three years.

In 2005, Gunter pled guilty to transportation of heroin for sales and admitted his two prior strikes. Gunter's prior strikes resulted from his 1980 offense of oral copulation of a 14-year-old girl, assault with intent to commit rape, and rape by force. At the time of the 2005 offense, Gunter was on parole for a 2001 conviction of robbery out of the state of Oregon. Gunter also had failed to register as a sex offender in 1996. Gunter was ordered to serve 25 years to life in prison.

While in prison, Gunter was found in possession of five stabbing instruments connected with a murder of a fellow inmate in 1982. Gunter has had seven rules violations which included being disrespectful to correctional staff, threats to correctional staff, and ignoring orders of correctional staff. Gunter's last rule violation occurred in 2017.

The Board found Gunter would be an unreasonable risk of danger to society if released. The Board cited several aggravating factors which outweighed Gunter's mitigating factors, including Gunter's criminal history which was extensive and peppered with violence, Gunter's lack of self-control, his inconsistencies about his substance abuse, his continued failure to retain or internalize his programming, and his unrealistic parole plans.

This was Gunter's second parole suitability hearing and he may petition the Board for an earlier date if there is a change in circumstances.

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