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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 4, 2024
Re: Jerry Dale Ballard
Serial Pedophile Denied Parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Jerry Dale Ballard, 59 years old, of Tulare was found unsuitable for parole at a January 9, 2024 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at Valley State Prison in Chowchilla. Deputy District Attorney Victoria Vasquez appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement. The Board of Parole Hearings denied Inmate Ballard parole for three years.

On February 16, 1996, Ballard kidnapped an 11-year-old girl as she was walking home from the grocery store. Ballard brandished a knife, threatened to kill her, drove her to a remote location and raped her.

Stanislaus Sheriff's detectives investigating the case discovered evidence that Ballard had also sexually molested two additional 12-year-old victims, one of whom became pregnant. During the January hearing, Ballard admitted to molesting the victim who had become pregnant at least twenty times a year for multiple years before his arrest.

On March 29, 1999, Ballard was convicted of forcible child molest and kidnapping. He also admitted an enhancement for using a knife during the crime and for causing great bodily injury to the 11-year-old victim. On that case, Ballard was sentenced to serve 15 years-to-life in state prison. He was also convicted of lewd acts with a child for the additional victims and sentenced to an additional three years to run consecutively to the other sentence for a total of 18 years-to-life in State Prison.

During Ballard's third parole suitability hearing, Ballard admitted to molesting an additional three children, who were between the ages of four (4) and eleven (11). Ballard also asked the Board at his last hearing for a three year denial of parole, terminating the last parole hearing which was near completion. However, after the Board granted his request in 2021, Ballard sought an earlier parole suitability hearing in 2023 and was granted an earlier parole hearing of six months, resulting in the January 2024 date.

Many of Ballard's victims attended the hearing. One victim addressed the Board regarding the repeated parole hearings and Ballard's attempts to continue masking his attraction to children. In his statements to the Board, Ballard reflected only a few weeks prior that he became aroused when a fellow inmate shared a story of his sexual abuse of a minor child. Ballard said he continues to be attracted to children and their vulnerability, at first suggesting he had a specific profile of pre-pubescent minors, but Prosecutor Vasquez argued these statements are inconsistent with the age range of children whom he victimized. The known children Ballard molested were between the ages of four (4) and fourteen (14).

The Board found Ballard would be an unreasonable risk of danger to society if released despite the prison psychologist's findings that Ballard presented a Low Risk of reoffending and the great weight afforded Ballard as he qualifies for consideration of release on elder parole (as he is over the age of 50). However, the Board found Ballard continued to lack awareness as to why he committed his offenses. They recognized Ballard had attended many sex offender courses, but that he had yet to internalize the material and his written letters of remorse reflect his continued lack of understanding why he offended. Ballard told the Board that as part of his release plans, he could never be around children, which the Board found to be very unrealistic. The Board commented on Ballard's broad range of sex offending, which includes several instances where Ballard groomed several children as well as kidnapping a young girl on the street and raping her. They believed Ballard had yet to address much deeper issues.

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

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