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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 7, 2024
Re: Juan Alardin
Convicted murderer denied parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Juan Alardin, age 54, of Westley was found unsuitable for parole during a March 5, 2024, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison in Corcoran, California. This was his first parole hearing. Deputy District Attorney Amy Elliott Neumann appeared at the hearing to represent the interests of the People of Stanislaus County.

On March 7, 1999, Alardin, accompanied by Felipe Solorio, Miguel Garcia, and Jeffrey Muniz, shot and killed Robert Ybarra outside a market in Grayson. Alardin and his crime partners had been drinking and using methamphetamine when they decided to drive by Mr. Ybarra's house in Grayson. Solorio, whose brother had a prior altercation with Mr. Ybarra, drove the car and shouted at Mr. Ybarra from the car. The group drove away but returned and drove by Mr. Ybarra's house again the same day.

Solorio then drove the group to Muniz's home, where he retrieved a 12-gauge shotgun and ammunition. The group also stopped by Alardin's home and then proceeded back to Grayson. Solorio drove the car and Alardin sat in the front passenger seat. The group spotted Mr. Ybarra as he walked to a market near his home. Muniz and Garcia both testified at trial that Alardin grabbed the shotgun, told Solorio to stop the car, concealed his face with a beanie hat, got out of the car, and shot Mr. Ybarra three or four times. A friend with Mr. Ybarra testified at trial that the shooter was the same size and build as Alardin. Muniz and Garcia turned themselves in after the crime. Solorio fled and Alardin evaded arrest for four months. Alardin was convicted of first-degree murder after a jury trial.

Deputy District Attorney Neumann urged the Board not to release Alardin because of his high risk of future violence, failure to obey the rules in prison, his continued criminal thinking and gang involvement. Specifically, Alardin failed to internalize his programming and achieve the insight needed to successfully parole. Alardin continued to deny his role as the shooter and actual killer in the murder and referred to his involvement as passive.

The Board agreed and determined that Alardin presented a current danger to the community if released. The Board was particularly concerned with his recent rule violations and continued negative peer association. The Board noted that Alardin's denials regarding his role in a 2021 prison riot were remarkably similar to his denial of his role in the life crime and he was not credible when he denied his culpability in both. The Board denied parole for five years.

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