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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Date: July 16, 2026
Re: Laci and Conner Peterson Murder Case

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Peterson's Claims of "New Evidence" Have Been Repeatedly Presented and Rejected and His Conviction Upheld

"The court remains unpersuaded that Petitioner has stated a prima facie claim for relief on the basis of actual innocence." San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Elizabeth M. Hill, April 2026

MODESTO, California. The Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office is committed to conviction integrity. This is not only an obligation to the community we serve, but victims, their families, and the accused. Since Scott Peterson's trial in 2004 he has brought forward the same or similar claims of "new evidence" in more than a dozen pleadings. Prosecutors in the Stanislaus District Attorney's Office, members of the Attorney General's Office, the trial court and reviewing courts including Superior and Appellate Court Judges and California Supreme Court Justices have evaluated these claims for over two decades. Each time Peterson's claims of "new evidence" have been presented, they have been rejected and his conviction has been upheld, most recently including a rejection of his claim of actual innocence in April 2026.

"The State of California has given this case the most careful, rigorous review our justice system allows for more than 20 years," said Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero. "That is certainly Scott Peterson's right. These same "new evidence" claims have been litigated and ruled on by court after court after court. Each time, the courts have rejected these claims and affirmed his conviction."

In April, San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Elizabeth M. Hill issued a 116-page ruling rejecting all 14 claims in Peterson's Third Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus, including his claim of actual innocence, finding that "much of what Petitioner pleads now is neither new, admissible, nor material." The same claims the court just finished reviewing and rejecting are once again being repacked as new, including the Medina burglary, the boat and plier evidence, and questions about timeline and forensic testimony.

The DA's Office has provided a Fact Sheet responding to allegations the defense team has raised over the years, including claims that were previously rejected by the jury and multiple reviewing courts.

California's Marsy's Law guarantees the families of crime victims the right to "a prompt and final conclusion of the case." The Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office remains steadfast that the evidence presented at trial, and reaffirmed through 20 years of appellate review, proves beyond a reasonable doubt that Scott Peterson murdered Laci and Conner Peterson.

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