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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: December 16, 2008
Re: Convicted murderer found suitable for
parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Rodrigo Orozco, age 44 of Modesto, was found suitable for parole at a December 15, 2008 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at Solano State Prison. Deputy District Attorney Richard Gore appeared at the hearing and argued against the granting of parole based on the danger Orozco would pose to society should he be released from prison. The Board of Prison Hearings disagreed and granted Orozco parole. The Board's decision is subject to automatic review by the Governor.

On September 9, 1983, Orozco was convicted of first degree murder for the homicide of George Shafer, age 78. On May 5, 1983, Orozco and a co-responsible went to Shafer's home to rob him. They bound and gagged Shafer and ransacked the house looking for cash and other valuable property. They left the house with Shafer still bound and gagged, laying on the floor. Shafer died from asphyxiation.

In reaching their decision, the Board relied heavily upon the request of several of Shafer's surviving children that Orozco be released. One of Shafer's daughters, Roberta Steward, appeared at the hearing and asked that Orozco be granted parole. He is serving a 25 years-to-life sentence, and this was his sixth parole hearing. If the Board's decision is upheld, Orozco will be deported to Mexico upon his release from prison.

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