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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: April 29, 2009
Re: Gooch Parole Denial

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Matthew Gooch, age 75, of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole at an April 29, 2009 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Cocoran State Prison. Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the hearing in order to argue for continued confinement based on the brutal and callous nature of the crime and the convict's uncertain parole plans. Before the hearing could commence, Gooch agreed that he was not ready for parole and stipulated to a five-year denial.

On January 5, 1980, Gooch killed Franklin Woods with a close range shotgun blast to the neck after Woods stole \$4 from him in a card game. Gooch claimed the shooting was in self defense, but the jury convicted him of second degree murder with a gun use enhancement on July 11, 1980.

Gooch is serving a 17-year-to-life sentence and has previously been denied parole over a dozen times. He will be eighty years old when he is next eligible to request parole.

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