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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: January 27, 2010

Re: Catarino Martinez parole denial

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Catarino Martinez age 42, was found unsuitable for parole at a January 27th hearing of the State Board of Prison Terms at Solano State Prison. In July of last year his parole request was denied. This decision was reversed by the Board of Prison Hearings as his attorney had his license to practice law revoked, and a new hearing was ordered. Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the January 27th hearing and argued for continued confinement based on the cruel, callous nature of the crime, and lack of parole plans. Just as the hearing was scheduled to commence, Martinez agreed to waive his rights to a hearing and not ask to be released for two more years.

Martinez's wife was planning on divorcing him. He told her, and others, that if he couldn't have her, then no one could. On April 19, 1998, Martinez lured her onto his home by stating that a non-existent welfare check was there for her. Once inside the bedroom, he attacked her from behind and stabbed her five times. She escaped the house with Martinez chasing her, but was able to get away. Instead of calling for help, he destroyed evidence of the crime and concocted a false story to explain her wounds. He claimed that she attempted to commit suicide (despite the fact that the stab wounds were in her back) and that he injured himself trying to stop her. Martinez will be deported once paroled.

Catarino Martinez was convicted of attempted murder and spousal battery in September of 1998 and is serving a life sentence. This was his third parole hearing. He will be scheduled for another hearing in two years.

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