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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: June 11, 2013  
Re: Antonio Perez

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Antonio Perez, age 60, formally of Stockton, was found unsuitable for parole at a June 5, 2013 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad, CA. Antonio Perez was convicted in 1987 of First Degree Murder with use of a weapon and is serving a twenty-six years-to-life prison sentence. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar appeared at the hearing and argued against the granting of parole based on Perez's deceptive answers during the hearing. The Board agreed and denied parole for 7 more years.

In January 1986, Perez used a heavy blunt object to severely beat the victim, a 55-year-old teacher at Stagg High School in Stockton, causing multiple lacerations and fractures to the victim's skull. Perez then dumped the victim into the Delta Mendota Canal outside of Stockton. Perez had recently met the victim through Perez's new girlfriend. Perez was then observed by several witnesses driving the victim's car on numerous occasions. At one point, Perez told the victim's neighbor that the victim had been arrested in Mexico for smuggling drugs, and asked the neighbor for \$1,500 to bail the victim out of the Tijuana jail. In February 1986, the victim's badly decomposed body was discovered floating in the canal in Patterson.

Last year, the inmate was granted a parole date to be released from prison. The day before the inmate was to be released from prison, he received a letter from the Governor who reversed his release from custody for one year so that the inmate could get additional counseling to address his insight into the commitment offense. The inmate received the recommended counseling. In Perez's recent risk assessment evaluation, his psychologist's opinion was "that the inmate's prognosis for living in the free community is reasonably favorable."

During this year's parole hearing, Perez changed his story numerous times as to the circumstances of the murder. At first, Perez minimized his involvement in the murder. Then Perez went into several more explanations as to how the victim died; from a heroin overdose, an accidental fall, suicide, and other people poisoning him. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar argued for continued confinement based on Perez's complete failure to adequately explore the reasons for the murder and come to terms with the underlying causes. "Most troubling is that Perez has lied numerous times to this very Board today as to what happened and how he has learned from it," stated Mr. Mangar.

Perez will be scheduled for another hearing in seven years.