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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: 11/12/2015

Re: Fernando Arreola-- Parole

Approved

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Modesto, California- Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Fernando Arreola, age 44, of Turlock was found suitable for parole at a November 3, 2015, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings conducted at the prison in Tehachapi. This was Arreola's 5<sup>th</sup> parole hearing. A prior finding of suitability for parole by the Board in 2014 had been reversed by Governor Brown.

Deputy District Attorney Sandra Bishop appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on the cruel and callous nature of the offense, the extreme vulnerability of the helpless ten-month-old victim, the prison psychiatric assessment indicating that Arreola presents a risk for future violence and Arreola's lack of insight into his crime.

Arreola was convicted by jury of second degree murder on January 19, 1995 for the 1993 killing of ten-month-old Jordan Allen. Although Arreola had denied responsibility for the baby's death at trial, on appeal and twice at parole hearings, he finally admitted at a parole hearing in 2012 that he had in fact killed the baby. At his most recent hearing, Arreola admitted that during the five months that he lived with the baby he had abused him at least thirty times prior to the attack which caused the baby's death.

The Commissioners nonetheless concluded that Arreola was eligible for release because he had made sufficient progress in gaining insight into his crime and that his risk of future violence had been mitigated since the Governor's reversal of their previous suitability finding.

Arreola's grant of parole now returns to the Governor's Office for review.

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