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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 17, 2017
Re: Ray Walters
Parole denial

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Ray Walters, age 71 of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole during a February 28, 2017, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the state prison in Vacaville, California. Deputy District Attorney Anthony Colacito appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

Walters was convicted of second-degree murder for the November 17, 1991 shooting death of his neighbor, Randy Fernandes. Walters was an alcoholic who reportedly carried a .38 caliber revolver during confrontations with neighbors. He had been overheard at least once expressing his dislike of the victim and his intention to shoot Fernandes if their disagreements continued. During the parole hearing, in trying to explain his actions during the shooting, Walters repeatedly stated that, "it just happened."

Deputy District Attorney Colacito argued for continued confinement based on a complete lack of remorse and of any explanation as to why he committed the murder. Colacito also noted Walters's continued lack of insight or understanding into his alcohol addiction and the high risk of danger he poses to the community if released. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for 3 years.

Walters is serving a 20 year to life prison sentence. He has previously been denied parole twice. At his March 2014 hearing, Walters was denied for parole for five years. Due to recent changes in the law, that was modified to three years based upon his age (68).

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