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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: August 8, 2018
Re: Juan Materne Mendiola
Double murderer parole denied

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Juan Mendiola, age 44, of Modesto, was denied parole for the third time during an August 2, 2018 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the Substance Abuse Treatment Facility in Corcoran, California. Deputy District Attorney Blythe Harris traveled to the prison and appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

Mendiola and co-responsible Shelton Adams robbed Enrique Cuevas and Francisco Vega at the Riverview Market on Robertson Road in the early morning hours of May 26, 1994. During the robbery, Adams held both victims at gunpoint while Mendiola searched them and took their money. Adams then shot and killed Cuevas and Vega with a .22 caliber rifle. Mendiola drove the getaway vehicle from the scene.

On August 21, 1996, Mendiola was convicted of two counts of Second Degree Murder along with a firearm enhancement. He was originally sentenced to serve the rest of his life in state prison but was granted parole in October of 2014.

One year later, in October of 2015, Mendiola was returned to prison after he admitted violating his parole terms by repeatedly contacting and threatening his ex-girlfriend. During the August 2nd hearing, the Board once again found that Mendiola posed an unreasonable risk to public safety if he were to be released, denied parole for only one year.

Mendiola was 20 years old at the time he participated in the killings. Senate Bill 394, which became law on October 11, 2017, requires the Board of Parole Hearings to assess parole suitability for "youthful offenders" such as Mendiola who committed murder when they were under the age of 25.

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