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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: April 2, 2008
Re: Barela Lifer Hearing

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Ernest Barela, age 54, of Fowler, California was found unsuitable for parole at an April 2, 2008 hearing of the State Board of Prison Hearings. Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on the violent and depraved nature of the crime, insufficient rehabilitation and lack of viable parole plans. On September 18, 1978, Barela kidnapped and took hostage a mother and two young children in Riverbank. After robbing them at gunpoint, and threatening to kill them “so I can go back to prison because life is too hard on the outside” he sexually molested the mother, who was eight months pregnant, in front of her five and eight year old children. He later pled guilty to kidnapping to commit robbery, and blamed the offense on being angry with his girlfriend because she refused to commit robberies with him. After several years in prison, he was involved in an attack on a civilian staff member in prison that resulted in the civilian’s death.

The Board of Prison Terms denied parole for one year. This was Barela’s sixteenth parole hearing. He has been incarcerated for 29 years.

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