



OFFICE OF THE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County  
832 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
Modesto, CA 95354  
Mailing address: POB 442, Modesto, CA 95353  
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 558-4027

**Birgit Fladager**  
District Attorney

Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Dave Harris  
Doug Raynaud  
Annette Rees  
Marlisa Ferreira

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: October 7, 2015  
Re: Parole Denial/Santana

**For More Information Contact:**

Kristy Ibarra, Executive Assistant  
Phone: (209) 525-5519

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Andres Santana, age 42, formerly of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole during a hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Avenal State Prison on July 7th. Deputy District Attorney Wendell Emerson appeared at the hearing and argued against release on parole based on the danger that Santana would pose to the community if he were released. Emerson noted that Santana's history of disciplinary problems during his incarceration, which included participating in a prison riot as well as being caught with contraband, demonstrated Santana's continued impulsive and criminal behavior that makes him a threat to public safety. Further, Santana had been caught with a cell phone during a search of his prison cell which is considered a serious threat to prison security and personnel. Santana was asked to identify the prison guard from whom he purchased the cell phone in an effort to snuff out corruption within the prison facility. Santana refused to identify the guard. Per CDCR officials, cell phones can sell for over \$1000 inside prison facilities. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for another 3 years.

Andres Santana was convicted of murder on April 6, 1993 and is serving a 19 years-to-life prison sentence for the shooting death of 14-year-old Florentino Garcia on July 12, 1992. Santana initially was serving a 29 years-to-life sentence for first degree murder; however, the Court of Appeals reduced the charge and sentence upon review. At the time of the murder, Santana was a leader of the criminal street gang "Night Owls." Prior to the murder, Santana was high on methamphetamine and had a dispute with the 14-year-old victim. An angry Santana approached the victim and gave him a hug. At this time, Santana pressed his gun against the victim's body and fired the fatal shot. Andres Santana was previously denied parole on November 1, 2010, and June 18, 2008.

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