



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

**Birgit Fladager**  
District Attorney

**Assistant District Attorney**  
Dave Harris

**Chief Deputies**  
Doug Raynaud  
Annette Rees  
Marlisa Ferreira

**Chief Investigator**  
Kevin Bertalotto

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: February 16, 2017  
Re: Parole Denial – Gerardo Zamora

### **For More Information Contact:**

John Goold, Public Information Liaison  
Phone: (209) 525-6909

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Gerardo Zamora, age 58, of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole during a February 8, 2017 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville, California.

On July 15, 1986, Zamora was drinking at a bar in Modesto. The victim, Ignacio Leon, was also present. After two separate fights occurred between the victim and Zamora, Zamora went home to retrieve a rifle. When he returned to the bar, Zamora opened fire killing the victim. Two other patrons were also shot, but recovered. Zamora fled to Mexico but eventually surrendered to immigration officials in March, 1994 and made a full confession to the officers.

On September 30, 1994, Zamora was convicted of one count of first degree murder and two counts of assault with a firearm. He was also convicted of personally using a firearm to commit all three offenses and that he had inflicted great bodily injury in the course of the assaults. Zamora was sentenced to 35 years to life in state prison.

At the parole hearing, Zamora refused to appear before the board and would not meet with his attorney. Deputy District Attorney Mabel Lew appeared on behalf of the People and argued for continued confinement based on the viciousness of the crime, his lengthy history of severe mental illness, insufficient attempts at prison programming, and the high risk of danger that he posed to the community if released. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for three years.

This is the second denial of parole. Zamora will be scheduled for another hearing in three years.

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