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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: June 15, 2018
Re: Jerry Dale Ballard
Parole Denied

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jerry Dale Ballard, age 54, of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole during a May 24th hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Valley State Prison in Chowchilla, CA. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

In February of 1996, Ballard kidnapped a 12-year-old girl off a public street in Modesto forcing her into his car at knifepoint. He drove to an orchard and sexually assaulted her before letting her go. During the investigation, Stanislaus Sheriff's detectives discovered Ballard had also molested his 12-year-old biological daughter and even impregnated his 12-year-old step-daughter.

In March of 1999, Ballard was convicted of child molestation, kidnapping with use of a knife and causing great bodily injury. He was sentenced to 18 years-to-life in prison.

Ballard acknowledged to the Board that he was a pedophile and said he has attended counseling and found God while in prison. A psychologist who examined him opined that Ballard presented a low risk to the community if released on parole.

Ballard's biological daughter was present during the hearing and told the Board that "this is the first time that I've seen my dad in 20 years and I know he will molest another little girl if he gets released." Stanislaus County prosecutor Jeff Mangar also opposed release, noting that Ballard had molested his biological daughter, his step-daughter and a total stranger. Mangar argued for continued confinement based on Ballard's lack of understanding of the nature of his severe pedophilia that caused him to commit his offenses and the unreasonable risk to public safety that would occur if he were released.

The Board determined that Ballard still posed an unreasonable risk to public safety and denied parole for another three years. They could have denied parole for 5, 7, 10 or 15 years. He will be scheduled for another hearing in 2021, although that hearing may be advanced to as early as next year based on recent changes in state law.

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