



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 27, 2021
Re: David Delgado Escobar
Murderer denied parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that David Delgado Escobar, age 39, of Modesto, was denied parole during a December 8, 2020 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Valley State Prison. Special Prosecutor Amy Elliott Neumann appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On June 9, 2005, Escobar, a member of the Sureño criminal street gang, drove to a rival gang member's home along with co-defendant Jaime Rojas. Escobar was angry with Frank Laredo for shooting at his car several days before and intended to confront Laredo over the incident. When Escobar stopped his car in front of the home, a group of rival gang members, including Laredo began walking towards them. Co-defendant Rojas fired four shots at the crowd, hitting Laredo twice, killing him. Two others were also shot, one in the ear and the other in the leg. Escobar and Rojas then fled the scene.

On April 2, 2011, Escobar pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter and admitted the enhancement that he did the murder for the benefit of a criminal street gang. He also pled to two counts of assault with a deadly weapon and admitted using a firearm in the crimes. Escobar was sentenced by Judge Scott Steffen to serve 24 years in state prison.

Since being in prison custody, Escobar has committed three prison rules violations, including a 2018 report for fighting, and five counseling reports for unacceptable conduct. Beginning only last year, Escobar began engaging in self-help rehabilitation to deal with his long-term addiction issues but has not completed his GED since being incarcerated over the last nine years. A psychologist gave the opinion that Escobar presented a moderate risk for violence if he were to be released into the community.

The victim's family also appeared at the hearing, expressing the tremendous impact on their lives due to Laredo's death and arguing against parole.

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Special Prosecutor Neumann argued to the Board for Escobar's continued confinement based on the psychologist's finding that Escobar presented a moderate risk to commit violence in the community if he were granted parole, his lack of sustained self-help programming, his record of institutional discipline, and his demonstrated lack of insight into what caused him to commit his crimes.

After deliberations, the Board denied parole for three years, noting that Escobar needed to engage in sustained self-help programming to deal with his addiction issues and gain insight into what caused him to commit his crimes and violate prison rules.

This was Escobar's first parole hearing. He became entitled to an early parole hearing pursuant to recent changes in the law regarding "youthful offenders." Escobar also has a right to request his next hearing be advanced to an earlier date if he believes he has made progress towards release. Otherwise, his next hearing date will be sometime in 2023.

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