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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: John Goold

Date: November 26th, 2007

Chief Deputy District Attorney

Re: SURYA CHAND PAROLE HEARING

Phone: 209-525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Surya Chand, age 57, of Seattle was found unsuitable for parole after a November 15th, 2007 hearing of the State Board of Prison Terms held at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville. Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on the severity of the commitment crime and Chand's unrealistic parole plans, which included returning to the island of Fiji and becoming a logger. The Board of Prison Terms denied Chand's parole for at least two more years.

On November 7, 1981, Chand attended a reception at the American Legion Hall in Modesto where he became drunk and got involved in several fistfights. After leaving the Hall, Chand threatened to kill the partygoers. He went to his car and waited in an unlit portion of the parking lot. When the reception ended and the guests came outside, Chand drove his car at them with the lights out, striking and killing Suruj Mahabir and seriously injuring a child, SIllochana Mangal. Chand then fled to Washington, where he was captured a year later.

On April 29th, 1983, Chand was convicted of murder, attempted murder and felony hit and run. Chand is currently serving a 22 year to life sentence in state prison. He has previously been denied parole at three times. He will be eligible for another parole hearing in two years.

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