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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: February 11, 2011

Re: Convicted double murderer released on parole

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Edward Haro, age 54, was found suitable for parole by State Board of Parole Hearings Commissioner Arthur Anderson. Governor Brown declined to overturn the parole board's decision which resulted in Haro being released back into the community on January 21st. He is currently residing in south Modesto.

Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner had appeared at Haro's last parole hearing in August 2010 and argued for continued confinement based on the violent nature of the offense and lack of rehabilitation. Commissioner Anderson released Haro from prison despite the fact that, at Haro's 2008 hearing, other members of the Parole Board found Haro to be "less than honest," his credibility and remorse, "questionable," and that Haro "continues to be a danger to public safety." The 2008 parole denial was affirmed by Stanislaus County Superior Court Judge Scott Steffen who noted that Haro, "remains a current threat to public safety." Four previous Parole Boards had also found Haro to pose an unjustifiable risk to society.

Haro was convicted by a jury of two counts of murder and two counts of kidnaping with firearms allegations in 1986. Haro was serving a thirty-one years-to-life prison term and was being considered for parole for the fifth time. Haro and four crime partners killed Gilbert and Joseph Flores after they accused them of burglarizing Haro's home. Haro had threatened on several occasions to kill the persons who stole his property and went in search of them with several armed companions. The Flores brothers were kidnaped at gunpoint and taken to a remote orchard in rural Stanislaus County where they were shot over ten times with three different guns. Haro and his crime partners then left the Flores brothers to bleed to death in the orchard while they went to a bar and drank beer. Haro's version of this crime has always been inconsistent with the facts of the case and he has been criticized by previous Parole Boards for minimizing his responsibility for the crime and denying his true level of involvement.

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