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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Murderer Who Killed Infant Son Denied Parole

On Wednesday, November 12, 2008, at the California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo, Convicted murderer, Manuel Bermudez, was denied parole and will stay in prison for four more years.

In November of 1994, Bermudez was convicted of murder and child abuse as a result of the beating death of his 14 month old son. The offense occurred in Davis in January, 1994, and was investigated by the Davis Police Department, Child Protective Services, and the Winters Police Department where Bermudez was located after the crime. Bermudez has remained incarcerated since the offense.

According to court records, and as stated by Board of Parole Hearings Presiding Commissioner and Chairman Robert Doyle, the infant had been severely abused, with injuries noted from head to toe, including some that were weeks old and others that were just a few hours old. At least two fatal wounds were observed. The emergency room doctor reported that the offense was the worst case of child abuse he had seen in 17 years of practice. Two surviving siblings were permanently removed from the home by Child Protective Services.

Yolo County deputy district attorney Larry Barly, who prosecuted the murder in 1994, argued that Bermudez should not be released from prison. Although Bermudez's father and mother appealed to the Board in an effort to gain his release, the Board declined, noting the crime's severity, Bermudez's callous indifference to human suffering, his lack of remorse, and his lack of efforts to address issues that may have led up to the crime.

District Attorney Jeff Reisig applauded the success of the Parole Lifer Unit, and praised the decision of the Commissioners stating that, "there is no greater a victim than a helpless infant who looks to his parents for protection." Reisig added, "We remain committed to protecting the public long after the end of the court proceedings." For more information contact Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Raven at 530-666-8092.

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