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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Parole Denied for Convicted Murderer Gustavo Delacruz
CDC #AZ8197; Court Case #BF151443A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to 46-year-old Gustavo Delacruz who in 2016 was convicted of the second-degree murder of Taylor Embree. On March 12, 2024, BPH found that Delacruz continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney James Simson.

On October 17, 2013, shortly before 4:00 a.m., the 29-year-old victim was struck down by Delacruz while driving to work on Comanche Drive in Kern County. Delacruz, who was under the influence of methamphetamine and alcohol at the time, crossed over the center divide at a speed of 85 mph and hit Embree head-on, killing him. Delacruz, who was driving on a suspended license, had twice before been convicted of DUI, most recently twenty-one months earlier.

On March 15, 2016, a Kern County Jury found Delacruz guilty of second-degree murder and gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated. Delacruz was sentenced to 15 years to life in state prison.

On March 12, 2024, the Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH has the option of denying an inmate parole for a period of 15, 10, 7, 5, or 3 years. Following the two-hour hearing, the Board found Delacruz unsuitable for parole and issued a five-year denial.

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented, "Delacruz repeatedly endangered the safety of others, ultimately taking a life due to his negligence. I am pleased with the board's decision to hold Delacruz accountable."