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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Parole Re-Release Denied for Convicted Murder with Multiple DUI Convictions**  
*CDC #E17086; Kern County Court Case #SC037590A*

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied re-release to convicted murderer Steven Wagner. On April 9, 2024, BPH found that Wagner continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On September 20, 1988, law enforcement responded to a traffic collision on Alfred Harrell Highway and Frontage Road. Law enforcement found Wagner's truck resting on all four wheels with total damage to the front end. Michael Patrick Davis, age 24, was found pinned behind the wheel. Wagner caused the accident by blatantly turning left in front of the victim's vehicle. Wagner's blood alcohol was .26, over three times the legal limit. Wagner was coming back from drinking on the Kern River. Wagner was on probation for three DUI convictions at the time he killed the victim.

On March 31, 1999, a Kern County Jury convicted Wagner of murder in the second degree, vehicular manslaughter, driving under the influence causing death with three prior convictions for driving under the influence, driving while his license was suspended or revoked, and having no insurance.

On September 14, 2019, Wagner was released on parole after serving approximately 32 years for murder. Wagner was 59 years old at the time of his release. By October of 2019, while on parole, Wagner tested positive for methamphetamine while actively engaged in a substance abuse treatment program.

On June 6, 2021, Wagner was seen by law enforcement on Highway 178 and Canteria Drive. Law enforcement saw Wagner run a red light at approximately 70 miles per hour. Wagner was pulled over. He had beer cans on the backseat floorboard. Wagner's blood alcohol level was .26, over three times the legal limit. At the time of his arrest, Wagner said he drank 3 beers while fishing on the Kern River. Wagner was still on parole for a DUI murder. The facts of his 2021 DUI and his 1988 DUI murder had many similarities.

On December 6, 2021, a Kern County Judge found Wagner in violation of his parole. He was returned to prison on February 11, 2022.

On April 9, 2024, the Board of Parole conducted Wagner's second parole reconsideration hearing. The commissioners focused on Wagner's conduct that resulted in his June 2021 DUI. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the Board of Parole to deny parole. The Board of Parole found that Wagner was not suitable for release. Wagner's next hearing will be in one year.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Wagner's pattern of behavior signals that once outside of prison, he will reoffend. While I'm glad parole was denied this time around, the battle isn't over."