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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of Parole Hearings Denied Release to Convicted Rapist and Third Striker Ronald Ricks
CDCR #D07543; Court Case #SC078288A and #SC31003A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted sex offender and third striker Ronald Ricks, age 62. On July 8, 2025, BPH found that Ricks continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

At the time of his life crime, Ricks was on parole after serving a 19-year prison sentence for forcible rape and forcible oral copulation at knife point. On May 14, 1999, at approximately 9:40pm, a law enforcement officer observed Ricks speeding on Highway 178. When the officer attempted to pull Ricks over for speeding, a high-speed chase ensued. Ricks accelerated to speeds over 100mph, swerving in and out of all three lanes of traffic. The high-speed pursuit continued at "M" Street with Ricks driving at 70-80mph on surface streets. At one point during the pursuit, Ricks drove on the sidewalk at "G" Street. Ricks continued to run multiple stop signs at high rates of speed. On Elm Street, Ricks vehicle became disabled, and he fled from law enforcement on foot.

On November 9, 1999, a Kern County Jury found Ricks guilty of one count of felony evading a peace officer and one count of misdemeanor driving on a suspended license. The court found true that Ricks had suffered three prior convictions that qualified under the three-strikes law in California, warranting a 25-year-to-life sentence.

On July 8, 2025, the BPH focused again on Ricks' institutional behavior. The focus was on his compliance with supervision and authority in light of his recent institutional misconduct from May and June of this year. In addition, the Board focused on his recent work related to sex offender programming.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Ricks

was not suitable for parole and posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society. The BPH has the option of denying an inmate parole for a period of 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Ricks' commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Ricks' next parole hearing date could potentially be in 18 months.

Assistant District Attorney Joseph Kinzel commented; "Career criminals like Ricks pose a significant threat to public safety and must remain incarcerated. We have successfully upheld this position and will continue to advocate for the denial of parole in the interest of our community."

Ronald Ricks:

