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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Convicted Gang Member and Attempted Murderer Denied Parole
CDCR #AY6571; Kern Court Case #LF010246B

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted gang member Jose Valencia. On July 16, 2025, BPH found that Valencia continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the Kern County District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On August 23, 2014, the City of Arvin experienced a widespread power outage as a result of a traffic accident. At approximately 1:00am on August 24th, the two victims were sitting at a self-service car wash at Bear Mountain Boulevard and Walnut Drive. The conditions were described as pitch black. As the two men were sitting there, gunfire erupted. One victim was hit in the leg and the other victim escaped without injury.

An on-duty law enforcement officer was near the car wash when the gun fire erupted. The officer saw between seven and 10 "muzzle flashes" coming from the front passenger side window of a car and heard an equal number of gun shots. The officer pursued the vehicle that had fired on the victims. Valencia was the driver. The pursuit lasted 84 miles and lasted one hour and nine minutes. Valencia and his crime partners were apprehended. Valencia was determined to be a member of the Arvina 13 criminal street gang.

On March 30, 2015, a Kern County jury found Valencia guilty of felony evading a peace officer. However, the jury could not reach verdicts on the remaining counts. Therefore, the court declared a mistrial on the hung counts and set the case trial again.

On November 20, 2015, a Kern County jury found Valencia guilty of two counts of attempted premeditated murder. For both attempted murders, the jury found true that the crimes were committed for the benefit of a criminal street gang. Further, the jury found that Valencia discharged a firearm during the

commission of these crimes and caused great bodily injury to one of the victims as a result of the shooting. Finally, the jury also found Valencia guilty of two counts of assault with a firearm personally causing great bodily injury and for the benefit of a criminal street gang.

On December 22, 2015, a Kern County Judge sentenced Valencia to life in prison with a minimum parole date of 7 years, plus an additional 25 years to life for the first count of attempted murder. For the second count of attempted murder, the court sentenced Valencia to life in prison with a minimum parole date of 7 years, plus an additional 20 years. The judge ordered that these sentences were to be served consecutively to each other.

On January 13, 2022, Valencia was eligible for resentencing and was sentenced to two terms of life in prison with a minimum eligibility date of 7 years.

Valencia is currently 30 years old and has served almost 11 years in state prison. On July 16, 2025, the BPH conducted Valencia's first parole hearing. At the hearing, Valencia admitted that he fired 5-6 shots at the victims. Valencia said he wanted to murder the victim for being disrespected. The commissioners focused on Valencia's insight into his gang involvement in both the community and in prison. In addition, the commissioners asked questions related to his substance abuse history, rehabilitative programming, and institutional behavior.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Valencia 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. Valencia's commissioners issued a three-year denial.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Valencia has demonstrated a complete disregard for human life and continues to pose a threat to our community. We believe that not enough time has passed to ensure that justice has truly been served, and we strongly oppose his release."

Jose Valencia:

