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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by CJZ
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Board of Parole Denies Release for Inmate Convicted of Murder and Subsequent Prison Crime *CDCR #C18728; Kern County Case #SC076305A*

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to Orlando Sandoval, age 65. Following a comprehensive hearing on April 16, 2026, the Board found that Sandoval continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety.

On May 19, 1979, then 18-year-old Sandoval entered a Stop 'N Go market in Oxnard to commit an armed robbery. Armed with a .22 caliber pistol, Sandoval confronted the clerk, Aloysius Wieczorek. As the situation escalated, Sandoval shot Mr. Wieczorek in the chest, puncturing both victim's lungs and causing his death. Sandoval was subsequently convicted of first-degree murder in Ventura County and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

Sandoval continued his criminal activities in prison. In 1998, while serving his life term at California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi, Sandoval was convicted of Possession of a Controlled Substance in Prison. A Kern County Judge sentenced Sandoval to a second sentence of 25 years to life pursuant to the "Three Strikes" law.

This was Sandoval's sixth parole hearing. He has served approximately 46 years in prison. Although he was considered under both Youthful and Elder Parole considerations, the Board focused heavily on his recent failure to follow institutional rules. During the hearing, Sandoval admitted to a chronic failure to take his prescribed mental health medications, stating he was "fed up with the routine" and did not want to wait in line. Commissioners linked this non-compliance to a heightened risk of returning to drug use and potential violence.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Lenient Youthful and Elder Parole laws can allow violent and noncompliant inmates to seek early release, regardless of the seriousness of their offenses. My office will continue to attend these hearings to ensure that violent, life-term inmates serve the time necessary to protect the public."