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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Board of Parole Hearings Grants Parole to Convicted Murderer and Former Fugitive
Over the DA's Objection**

CDCR #V40706; Kern County Court Case number BF105290A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) granted release to convicted murderer Jesus Gutierrez. On June 4, 2026, BPH found that Gutierrez continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On the evening of May 24, 1998, Gutierrez shot and killed Derrick Luque while Mr. Luque was walking with his girlfriend and pushing their child in a stroller. Earlier that day, the victim got into an argument with three juvenile males who were members of the Rexland Acres Gang. Later that evening, the victim and his girlfriend took their child to Rexland Park. On their walk home, the family heard one of the juvenile males from earlier that day yelling. Gutierrez then fired four rounds in the family's direction. The victim was shot in the face and succumbed to his injuries.

Following the murder, Gutierrez fled to Mexico to avoid arrest. After five years, Gutierrez left Mexico and moved to Minnesota. On October 20, 2003, law enforcement took Gutierrez into custody on an arrest warrant.

On May 17, 2004, Gutierrez pled guilty to murder in the second degree. On June 14, 2004, a Kern County Judge sentenced Gutierrez to 15 years to life in state prison.

On June 4, 2026, the BPH conducted Gutierrez's fourth parole hearing. Gutierrez is currently 43 years old and has served approximately 22 years in state prison. At the parole hearing, the commissioners focused on Gutierrez's disassociation from gangs, rehabilitative programming, facilitation of rehabilitative program groups, maintenance of sobriety, and parole plans. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Gutierrez was suitable for parole and no longer poses

a current unreasonable risk of danger to society. Gutierrez will remain in custody for approximately 120-180 days while his grant of parole is reviewed.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “The victim's family endured years without the justice and closure they deserved, and this parole decision does not diminish the impact this crime has had on their lives. Although the parole board reached a different conclusion, our commitment remains with prioritizing public safety.”