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March 26, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Board of Parole Decision for Ronald Lee Anderson CDC#C17565
(Victims Philip & Kathryn Ranzo)

Dear Governor Brown,

I am writing to ask you to please review and reverse the December 27, 2017, decision by the Board of Parole which found life inmate Ronald Lee Anderson suitable for parole. Anderson and his crime partners committed one of the most brutal double murders in Modesto history and the community has not forgotten.

In June of 1979, Anderson committed a violent residential robbery in our county. He willingly drove the getaway car for his crime partners. He entered and tied up the victim, caretaker Leonardo Luna. (December 27, 2017, parole hearing reporter's transcript pg. 21, lines 22-23). Anderson brought with him a loaded 12-gauge double barreled shotgun that he was willing to use to kill someone if needed. (R.T. pg. 22-23, lines 17-1). Anderson and his codefendants mistakenly believed that a large amount of money (\$200,000.00) was present in the home. Anderson had no problem participating in the crime. He was willing to execute a complete stranger if they did not cooperate. Anderson described himself as feeling "charged up" and "excited" afterwards (R.T. pg. 33, line 9-16).

When his friends decided to rob a second home the following night, Anderson willingly went along. He claims that he was only trying to get his friends to abandon their plans because the idea "bothered him." His father had once told him "You don't never go into a man's house and rob it." (R.T. pg. 35 lines 9-13). Amazingly, he does not explain why that belief never occurred to him the previous night when he was willing to kill an innocent man. He went with the others and willingly took over the role of getaway driver. (R.T. pg. 39, lines 12-16). It was on this night that Philip and Kathryn Ranzo were viciously attacked and murdered in their own home. Kathryn was also raped.

The Ranzos were home alone, their 10-year-old son having gone to stay with his grandmother for the night. The same ruse was used as during the Luna robbery the night before. After opening their door, the Ranzos were asked for help; the defendants claiming their car was "out of gas." Once Mr. Ranzo offered them his charity, he was overtaken at gunpoint, hogtied and brutally beaten with his 10-year-old son's baseball bat and a hatchet. Mrs. Ranzo was ordered upstairs at gunpoint, where she was brutally bound, raped and tortured with a knife. Her body was found tied to the toilet in the master bathroom with her dress ripped off her.

Since his incarceration, Anderson has garnered an extensive CDC disciplinary history including use of controlled substances, mutual combat, disobeying orders, destroying state property, and possession of contraband, among others. He began using heroin and methamphetamine. He amassed significant drug debt to the point he would receive money from his father to specifically pay what was owed. (R.T. pg. 66 lines 14-23).

The most recent psychological assessment from 2016 opined that Anderson's risk to the community was higher than stated in his previous assessment in 2011 due to serious behavioral problems while incarcerated, indifference to rules, his unwillingness to discuss his crime in a forthright manner and his lack of insight into what triggers him to violence.

Anderson has previously expressed a desire to live with his father upon release and work with his father's horses. This is the same father who was a drug user/dealer and physical child abuser during Anderson's childhood and contributed financially to Anderson's drug habit while in prison. Now he offers different, various possibilities where he might live or work if released. His parole plans are incomplete.

The idea that in the span of one year (2016-2017) Anderson has suddenly had a realization he cannot live with his abusive father is disingenuous. That same concern is expressed by Commissioner Castro during the hearing (R.T. pg. 93, lines 20-24). One year is just as insufficient to have overcome all the factors previously seen as contributing to his risk of violence to society.

Because Anderson was 18 when he committed these horrific crimes, pursuant to the new "Youthful Parole " statute, great weight was given to his youth; however, lack of brain development and immaturity had nothing to do with his willingness to participate in violent crimes that resulted in the deaths of two generous, innocent people. It certainly had no effect on his continuing criminality and violence while incarcerated.

We implore you to reverse the parole grant for Anderson.

Respectfully,



Birgit Fladager
District Attorney