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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 28th, 2017**

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**DEFENDANT DENIED PAROLE FOR 1989 HOMICIDE**

Santa Cruz County District Attorney Jeff Rosell announced today that on April 25, 2017, Lance Christopher Badgett was denied parole by the Board of Prison Terms for his role in the 1989 murder of Michael Palmer. Assistant District Attorney Rafael Vazquez represented the District Attorney's Office at the parole hearing.

On February 20, 1989 a severed head, hands and feet were found on the beach at Greyhound Rock in Santa Cruz County. Five days later, a dismembered torso was discovered about 40 miles away from the first sighting. The body parts were later identified as Palmer, who was a friend and schoolmate of brothers John and Lance Badgett.

At the time of the murder, the Badgett brothers fled the State of Texas, without permission, while on probation for possessing stolen property. They traveled to California and assumed the identities of deceased individuals to avoid law enforcement. Palmer felt homesick, frequently called loved ones in Texas and contemplated returning home. The Badgett brothers believed that Palmer would potentially disclose their location and their false identities to Texas authorities. Fearing Palmer would "rat them out" and send them back to a Texas prison, the Badgett Brothers conspired to murder him. The brothers drove Palmer to a remote area off Highway 9. Lance Badgett executed Palmer by firing a single gunshot to the side of his head. The brothers agreed to dismember Palmer's body.

The Board found that Lance Badgett presently posed an unreasonable risk of danger to society if released. The Board justified the decision to deny parole consideration for an additional five years for multiple reasons, including the fact that he carried out the murder in a heinous, atrocious and cruel manner and because he continued to engage in criminal activities for many years while incarcerated in prison.

He will be eligible for parole again in 2022.