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September 12, 2019

Board of Parole Hearings
Attn: Nonviolent Parole Review Process
Post Office Box 4036
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

**Re: Inmate Edwin Mora; CDC V21131
Ventura County Superior Court Case 2012038720
Opposition Letter Due to Board of Parole Hearings September 21, 2019**

Dear Board Members:

This letter is written to recommend denial of early parole for inmate Edwin Mora. On June 6, 2018, the inmate was sentenced to 23 years 4 months in prison. Releasing the inmate now means he will only have served 41 percent of his sentence. The inmate should be denied early release based upon:

- 1) The inmate's commitment offense.
- 2) The inmate's prior criminal and gang history.
- 3) The unreasonable risk of violence and significant criminal activity if the inmate is released early.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF COMMITMENT OFFENSE

This case began in August of 2012 with a three-month-long wiretap operation covering 17 phone lines by the Ventura County Sheriff's Department. The intercepted calls captured the inmate, a Moorpark Locos gang member, setting up a mesa: a ruling body of gang members throughout the county for the Mexican Mafia.

The inmate personally selected gang members from the majority of the county's gangs to operate as his representatives. They were placed in control of collecting taxes from drug dealers and the local gangs in their city. The mesa's purpose was to control the drug trade in the county, tax local drug dealers and funnel money to Federally made Mexican Mafia gang member Martin "Evil" Madrigal and his wife, Lina "Senora" Fuentes. This mesa

was authorized by Madrigal, who appointed the inmate as the 'keyholder' to Ventura County, allowing him to conduct business on Madrigal's behalf.

The inmate tasked the mesa with not only collecting the narcotic taxes from known drug dealers, but to also locate drug dealers who had not been paying taxes to the Mexican Mafia, and to extort narcotic proceeds from the drug dealers for not paying the taxes. The inmate authorized "green lights" on local drug dealers who refused to pay their "tax." At least two named drug dealers were targeted for not paying taxes.

The wiretap operation revealed that the inmate collected taxes for the Mexican Mafia and sent it to Mexico to benefit Madrigal and Fuentes. He also traveled to Mexico in furtherance of this conspiracy.

In addition to extorting and threatening the lives of drug dealers, the inmate was personally involved in the sales of drugs and attempted to rob a pharmacy with a co-conspirator. During the inmate's arrest two letters from Madrigal and addressed to the inmate were found on him. These letters granted permission to the inmate to operate the mesa on the behalf of Madrigal for the Mexican Mafia.

SENTENCING

The inmate pled guilty to five counts: one violation of Conspiracy to Commit Extortion and the Sale and Transport of Controlled Substances, in violation of Penal Code section 182(a)(1); two violations of Penal Code section 524, Attempted Extortion for benefit of criminal street gang, pursuant to Penal Code section 186.22(b)(1); one violation of Penal Code section 182(a)(1) Conspiracy to Sell and Transport of a Controlled Substance; and one violation of Penal Code 664/211. He admitted that these offenses were committed for the benefit of criminal street gang, the Mexican Mafia, pursuant to Penal Code section 186.22(b)(1). He also admitted one prior strike conviction, one prior serious felony conviction per 667(a)(1) PC, and one prior prison per Penal Code section 667.5(b). He was sentenced to 23 years 4 months in prison based on a conviction for the five counts.

CRIMINAL HISTORY AND PRIOR CRIMINAL CONDUCT

The inmate has a significant and violent criminal history riddled with gang violence, theft, and robbery. His lifelong criminal career began at the age 14 for committing a battery and vandalism. At age 16, he committed a robbery, burglary, and stole a vehicle when he and an adult co-conspirator struck the victim with their fists and knocked him to the ground, while they both kicked the victim in the head approximately 40 times. At age 17, the inmate was charged with resisting arrest, loitering, and disorderly conduct.

At age 18, the inmate was charged with two counts of robbery, resisting arrest, and street terrorism. In 2007, the inmate committed a felony hit-and-run when he recklessly wove in lanes, hit a vehicle, causing it to hit a guardrail and flip over to its side. The inmate fled the scene.

In 2008, when the inmate was at Centinela State Prison, he conspired with his wife and others to have drugs brought into the jail during a visitation. When the inmate's wife was searched at the prison, she had seven ounces of opiates on her person. In 2012, the inmate was charged with being in possession of methamphetamine. By all accounts, the inmate still runs the mesa for Martin "Evil" Madrigal, even while in prison.

IN-CUSTODY BEHAVIOR

While awaiting trial in this case, the defendant was unable to conform to jail rules and obtained many write-ups, including possession of contraband, failing to obey directives, creating a disturbance, disrespecting staff, tampering with a security device, destruction of county property, and using a "ratline." He also received a major write up for refusing to "cuff up," which resulted in the spray of Deep Freeze into his cell.

DISCUSSION

Granting early parole of this inmate poses an extreme safety risk to the community. The inmate's long criminal history coupled with his continued loyalty to the Mexican Mafia represent a serious and continued threat to our community. Neither previous time in custody, nor juvenile interventions, nor multiple previous opportunities to rehabilitate have prevented him from again violating the law. The inmate began his criminal career at a young age and is still in charge of the mesa in Ventura County for the Mexican Mafia. He refused to speak with the probation officers to give any background or history, merely stating that "It is what it is." He showed no remorse for his actions

He has demonstrated repeatedly that he is a violent individual by authorizing drug dealers to be killed. The inmate does not have a legitimate job that he can work at to support himself if this board releases him from prison early. Instead, he will capitalize upon any freedom and continue to tax drug dealers, order hits, organize the drug trade, and funnel the money to Madrigal in Mexico. He is an extreme risk to our community and its safety.

The inmate should not be rewarded for his continued disregard for the legal system and repeated offences, nor for his non-conforming behaviors while incarcerated. The inmate was undeterred by his many contacts with the legal system as a juvenile. The inmate chose over and over to return to criminal activity, to disregard the law, and engage in dangerous and harmful behavior. His criminal behavior has escalated throughout his life and he has repeatedly demonstrated that he has no concern for how his actions affect

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others. Since age 14, there has been no significant period of time wherein he did not commit any crimes. Not even time in custody prevented criminal actions: aside from the conspiracy to introduce opiates into the prison system, he consistently caused disturbances and earned major write-ups. There are no factors whatsoever that suggest the inmate should be released early. He should serve his full term.

CONCLUSION

The inmate poses an extreme and unreasonable risk of continued gang violence and will continue his significant criminal gang activity in our community if granted early parole. I respectfully request the Board deny early parole for the inmate.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'RD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RACHELLE HELM DEAN
Supervising Deputy District Attorney

RD:jr

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