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For Immediate Release  
February 28, 2018

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **CONVICTED MURDERER ROBERT SHIPPMANN TO REMAIN IN PRISON GOVERNOR BROWN REVERSES GRANT OF PAROLE**

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Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced that Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. reversed the decision of the Board of Parole Hearings to grant parole to Robert Shippmann, now age 80. After the parole hearing on September 28, 2017, District Attorney Allison Haley urged Governor Brown to reverse the decision to release Shippmann. He agreed with the District Attorney's viewpoint that Shippmann "currently poses an unreasonable danger to society if released from prison."

Shippmann stands convicted of the April 23, 1993 murder of his wife, 28 year old Juli Mathis Shippman. The parties had separated and Shippmann had been served with a valid restraining order protecting Juli. Nonetheless, according to Shippmann, he talked her into taking a drive to discuss their relationship, including his belief that she was having an affair. He drove her to an isolated area in Angwin, where he shot her three times, first in the chest, then in the head. He then shot himself several times in the chest; however, he survived his injuries. Juli was survived by her mother, Joanne Wilson, her father, the late John Mathis, her brother Jeff, her sister Joelle, and her aunt Bonnie Sears.

In 1993, Shippman was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison, plus an additional four years for the gun enhancement. This was his fifth parole hearing.

Governor Brown acknowledged that Shippmann had no disciplinary record during his almost 25 years of incarceration. Nonetheless, the Governor noted that Shippmann lacks insight into the factors that led him to commit what the Governor described as a "cold and calculated" murder. Shippmann could not articulate why Juli was scared enough to obtain a restraining order against him. He said that her reasons remained a "mystery" to him.

Most important, Governor Brown emphasized that Shippmann's version "does not account for disturbing aspects of the crime." Shippmann claimed that Juli agreed to take a drive into the hills with him to "talk." He could not, however, explain why she left her truck's engine running and the door open. Nor did the Governor find plausible the inmate's claim that he brought a .22 calibre rifle to "talk" with his wife about her perceived infidelity. Governor Brown also pointed out that Shippman "still minimizes his history of domestic violence and he still has rather limited insight into this crime."

The Napa County District Attorney's Office, which sends a representative to every parole hearing for an inmate serving a life sentence that results from a Napa crime, informed the victim's mother of the reversal. She was gratified to hear that the Governor understands the danger Shippmann continues to pose. District Attorney Allison Haley stated that, "we are extremely pleased with the Governor's decision and remain deeply committed, even in the face of a Board of Parole Hearings grant, to fighting on behalf of victims."

Any questions regarding this case may be directed to Assistant District Attorney Paul Gero.