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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sam Strange denied parole

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Nevada City—Cliff Newell, Nevada County District Attorney, announced today:

On March 13, 2015, a parole hearing was held for Sam Strange. Parole was denied parole for his 1996 conviction for the brutal murders of two teenage girls, Dawn Donaldson and Chrissy Campbell with the next possibility for parole in 2018. Strange is serving two 16years to life sentences for the convictions.

Strange maintained his previous claim that he was not responsible for the murders and he only assisted in hiding the victim's bodies after the real perpetrators threatened Strange's family if he did not assist them.

Deputy District Attorney James Phillips noted there was substantial evidence linking Strange to the crimes but little more than Strange's claim to implicate anyone else. DDA Phillips pointed to trial testimony that the girls were driven to Strange's residence before the crimes, the axe and sledge hammer used in the murder came from Strange's garage, Strange disposed of the weapons in a nearby pond, Strange's fingerprints were recovered from the plastic bags that held the victim's bodies, and Strange repeatedly lied to the police when questioned.

The emotionally-tense hearing was attended by numerous relatives of both victims. Some survivors of one of the girls indicated they were not opposed to Strange's release.

District Attorney Newell remarked; "these are tough cases and when the defendants refuse to accept responsibility and don't appear to have rehabilitated we argue strenuously against parole. DDA Phillips did a good job for the Office and the citizens of Nevada County."

The hearing, held at Soledad State Prison, lasted 3 hours and the Board of Prison Terms set Strange's next parole hearing for 2018.