CHUCKAWALLA VALLEY -- A convicted baby-killer from Chula Vista was denied parole Wednesday despite his defense team's claim that modern scientific evidence suggests he never committed the crime.

Alan Gimenez, 43, was convicted of shaking his six-week-old baby to death in 1991 and sentenced to 15 years to life. Expert witnesses at the time testified the baby had been violently shaken on three separate occasions, causing fractured ribs and severe brain swelling.

"Since 1991, there have been tremendous advances in the science behind shaken baby and the science of child pathology," said Gimenez's attorney Alex Simpson with the California Innocence Project.

Simpson says there has been a dramatic shift in the medical opinion on shaken baby cases over the last decade, and a number of the expert witnesses who originally testified against Gimenez have said they were wrong to do so.

Gimenez's attorneys have collected testimony from at least six medical experts saying the baby's death was not from being shaken, and suggesting the death was instead from complications at birth.

But when Gimenez faced a parole board Wednesday at Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, the new evidence was inadmissible.

Instead, the hearing focused on Gimenez's admitted history of physical abuse towards his wife, including some physical altercations while the woman was pregnant.

The board also questioned Gimenez about evidence he once doubted the baby was actually his, and a statement he made to police, saying he played "airplane" with the six-week-old.

Gimenez was also involved with drug trafficking before his conviction, according to testimony and court records obtained by San Diego 6.

Deputy District Attorney Richard Sachs said the board's decision to deny parole signified "justice was served."

Gimenez and defense attorney Simpson argued to the board at length about a new California Supreme Court decision that ruled refusing to admit guilt can show a "lack of insight" in some cases, and can
be grounds for parole denial. Gimenez has maintained his innocence since his arrest, and repeated
that claim Wednesday.

But when the board returned with its decision, it seemed to weigh Gimenez's domestic violence
history above other factors. The commissioners agreed Gimenez would need to do more to prove he
has overcome issues with violence towards women.

Gimenez is eligible for another parole hearing in three years.

The California Innocence Project is currently fighting to overturn Gimenez's conviction in court.