



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY **REAL ESTATE FRAUD PROSECUTION FY 08-09 Annual Report**

The following is a report of the highlights of the District Attorney's Real Estate Fraud Unit accomplishments for the fiscal year 08-09:

- Mailed crime prevention flyers to over 1,200 homeowners who received notices of default
- Mailed over 30 complaint forms (both English and Spanish) to potential victims
- Provided training (through the California District Attorney's Association) to the investigator assigned to the unit
- Developed and maintained relationships with numerous real estate professionals and agencies including the Department of Real Estate, Department of Corporations, Department of Justice, Orange County District Attorney's Office, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations
- Coordinated with Orange County on a multi-jurisdictional investigation during which 5 search warrants were served in Orange County (4 warrants served by Santa Barbara County, one a Special Master warrant). The service of these warrants required the coordination of over 20 investigators, officers, and deputies from numerous agencies. This case is pending further investigation, but based on what is known at this time, it is anticipated that criminal charges will be filed.
- Coordinated and partnered with the Sheriff's Department on a case involving a local real estate agent. This investigation was initiated by the DA's Real Estate Fraud Unit, and it appears that this case will result in a criminal filing.
- Coordinated and partnered with the Contractor's Licensing Board (S.W.I.F.T. program) on a case initiated by the DA's Office involving a local unlicensed contractor. This case is still in the investigative stages.
- Completed investigation and filed felony charges against a local property developer. This case included a Special Master search warrant.
- Conducted a full investigation on a \$14 million dollar fraud case involving a local hard-money lender, which included over 45 interviews and resulted in an arrest warrant in association with this case. The defendant is currently in custody, and the DA's office has filed 147 felony counts against him.
- The unit currently has 3 cases in the prosecutorial stage

Santa Barbara County

District Attorney
Real Estate Fraud Prosecution Program

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2009

	Actual
Program revenues:	
Designation Balance 7-1-08	<u>\$ 33,566</u>
Real Estate Document Fees Collected	<u>55,512</u>
Total program revenues	<u>\$ 89,078</u>
Program expenditures:	
Salaries and benefits	53,578
Operation support costs	1,329
Clerk Recorder/Assessor administrative fees	<u>5,551</u>
Program expenditures	<u>\$ 60,458</u>
Designation Balance for Use in FY 09-10	<u>\$ 28,620</u>

Prepared by:
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