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***District Attorney Jan Scully
Takes Aggressive Action to Stop Real Estate Fraud***

District Attorney Jan Scully announced today the expansion of the District Attorney's Real Estate Fraud Unit and its aggressive effort to detect, investigate, prosecute and prevent real estate fraud in Sacramento County.

With Sacramento Valley among the highest in the nation in foreclosure rates, our region has experienced a wide range of real estate fraud, including foreclosure bailout scams, "straw buyer" scams, home equity thefts, and forgery of real estate documents. Distressed homeowners struggling to pay their mortgage or anxiously trying to sell are being targeted and falling victim to scam artists.

In an effort to combat real estate fraud, Government Code section 27388 provides for the collection of a fee by the Sacramento County Clerk/Recorder's Office for the filing of various documents. This fee is then placed into a Real Estate Fraud Prosecution Trust Fund, which funds the District Attorney's Real Estate Fraud Unit. In May 2010, the Sacramento County Real Estate Fraud Prosecution Trust Fund Committee decided to consolidate the investigations of real estate fraud cases county-wide in the District Attorney's Office Real Estate Fraud Unit. Beginning July 1, the Unit began conducting all investigation of real estate fraud cases involving a recorded real estate document.

Sacramento County residents who believe they are a victim of real estate fraud and would like to submit a complaint may contact the District Attorney's Real Estate Fraud Unit at 916.874.9045

OR click [HERE](#) to submit an online form.

Click [HERE](#) for a brochure on the types of real estate fraud and how to avoid becoming a victim.

District Attorney Jan Scully said, "Streamlining the investigation and prosecution of real estate fraud within a specialized unit will strengthen our ability to identify and hold scam artists accountable. Our goal is to prevent future victims by aggressively pursuing and prosecuting these crimes as well as educating the community on how to protect themselves."

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