



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 16, 2016

FORMER CALTRANS ADMINISTRATOR CHRISTINE COX-KOVACEVICH PLEADS GUILTY TO TWO FELONY COUNTS OF EMBEZZLEMENT BY A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE

Today, August 16, 2016, Christine Cox-Kovacevich plead guilty to two felony counts of Embezzlement by a Public Employee, in violation of Penal Code section 504. The embezzlement occurred while she was the Deputy District Director for a local division of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

During her employment it was discovered that Ms. Cox-Kovacevich submitted fraudulent travel claims and was paid for travel that never occurred from July 2012 through June 2015. Once Caltrans became aware of the allegations, the Investigators from the California Highway Patrol were contacted to conduct a thorough and complete investigation.

As a requirement of the plea, Ms. Cox-Kovacevich will be required to pay restitution in the amount of \$15,090.55 to the State of California for the full amount of the monies embezzled.

Sentencing is scheduled for September 27, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. in Department 31 of the Fresno County Superior Court.

Since the allegations came to light, Caltrans has worked to revise their internal controls, which now require more oversight and an audit procedure to prevent similar fraudulent activity in the future.

The District Attorney's Office and Caltrans would like to thank the California Highway Patrol for their extensive and thorough investigation of this matter.

The Media may email FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

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