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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by JAK
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Re: Sentencing for Public Officer Financial Conflict of Interest - Richard Williford: Case BF171170A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a conviction of a public officer in a financial conflict of interest case today. On December 12, 2019, in a case prosecuted by DDA Christopher Dominguez, Presiding Judge Judith Dulcich of the Kern County Superior Court sentenced Richard Williford in a no contest plea on one felony count of violating Government Code Section 1090, which prohibits a public officer from entering into contracts in which he has a personal financial interest.

Mr. Williford was a member of the board of directors of Mountain Meadows Community Service District from January 2007 through September 2013. During that time, he personally engaged in numerous contractual transactions with Mountain Meadows CSD in violation of financial conflict of interest laws. The Kern County Grand Jury investigated Mountain Meadows operations and, in an April 11, 2016 Grand Jury Report, referred allegations to the District Attorney's Office. Following an investigation by the District Attorney's Public Integrity Unit, Mr. Williford was charged with multiple felony counts for violating financial conflict of interest laws.

Mr. Williford is ordered to pay restitution to Mountain Meadows in the amount of \$137,184.57 and to serve 90 days custody as terms of the three-year probationary period. Mr. Williford is also prohibited from ever serving as a public officer in California for the remainder of his life.

Advised of the resolution, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented that "Violations of the public trust by officials will not go without consequence. The community depends on elected officials serve the best interests of the community without concern for their personal financial interests. When this trust is breached, our Public Integrity Unit will investigate and, if appropriate, prosecute criminal misconduct by any elected or appointed public official."

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Christopher Dominguez and investigated by the Public Integrity Unit of the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations.