NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
Josie Gonzales Fifth District

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FEBRUARY 10, 2010

JGFDS-PR-243 - SUPERVISOR GONZALES STATE ON NEW POSTMUS-ERWIN CHARGES
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUPERVISOR GONZALES ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING NEW CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED AGAINST POSTMUS AND ERWIN

SAN BERNARDINO – San Bernardino County 5th District Supervisor Josie Gonzales issues the following statement today regarding the new criminal conspiracy and bribery charges filed against:

- William John Postmus, former Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and former Assessor
- James Howard Erwin, former President and Chief of Administration of the Sheriff's Employees Benefit Association, former Assistant Assessor, and former Chief of Staff for 3rd District Supervisor Neil Derry

District Attorney Michael A. Ramos and California Attorney General Edmund G. Brown, Jr. allege that the object of the criminal conspiracy was for Colonies Partners, L.P. to obtain a large financial settlement with the San Bernardino County Flood Control District. In November 2006, the Board of Supervisors on a 3-2 vote approved a $102 million settlement with Colonies Partners. Vice Chair Gonzales cast one of the two "No" votes.

"The criminal complaint released today is shocking and appalling," Gonzales said. "I was alarmed to learn how far this web of conspiracy is alleged to have reached into County government.

"I am determined to address these very serious, new allegations. I will request that the Board broaden the civil investigation of the former Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to look into this alleged criminal conspiracy.

"The County has the responsibility to proceed expeditiously with our review of this new case. If the District Attorney and Attorney General win convictions, the County must stand ready to recover the $102 million paid to Colonies."

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The Fifth District includes the unincorporated areas of Bloomington, Muscoy, North Norton, El Rancho Verde, and Arrowhead Farms, the City of Rialto, major portions of the cities of Colton and San Bernardino, and the eastern portion of the City of Fontana.

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