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For Immediate Release

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Former Cal Fire Captain Pleads Guilty to Misuse of Public Funds, State Credit Cards

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) announced today a former Cal Fire Captain pled guilty to misusing public funds, including thousands of dollars in purchases on a Cal Fire credit card. Scott Mackellar, 35, pled guilty to one count of fraudulent appropriation by a public officer of public funds. Mackellar misappropriated more than \$7,000 worth of purchases on fuel and credit cards belonging to Cal Fire while he was employed as a fire captain.

“This is the second recent conviction by the District Attorney’s Office in a public integrity case,” said DA Dumanis. “These cases highlight our continuing commitment to holding government employees accountable when they abuse their position and violate the public trust.”

Mackellar is no longer employed by Cal Fire. The defendant paid full restitution at the time of plea and sentencing is set for September 7. Between April 23rd, 2009 and April 23rd, 2011 Fire Captain Mackellar used the Pine Valley Fire Protection District credit cards in to make purchases that benefitted himself personally including fuel, computer software, a digital phone system and 18-volt batteries.

DA Bonnie Dumanis commended Cal Fire for their thorough investigation and assistance on the case. “Any employee found guilty of inappropriate use of the public’s funds or violating the public’s trust will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. I appreciate the cooperation between Cal Fire and the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office to resolve this serious matter,” said Cal Fire Unit Chief Howard Windsor.

Last week, on July 21, Rogelio Najera, 49, a former City of San Diego employee who stole more than \$40,000 in funds from Robb Field Recreation Center pled guilty to grand theft by an employee.

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