

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

FORMER DEL REY OAKS CITY MANAGER FACES CRIMINAL CHARGES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that former Del Rey Oaks City Manager Daniel Dawson, age 57, will face criminal charges for being financially interested in a contract that he made in his official capacity and for failing to accurately report his economic interests as required by the Political Reform Act.

Dawson held the position of City Manager of Del Rey Oaks from August 2008 until he was placed on administrative leave on January 3, 2017. On September 25, 2015, he purchased 815 Portola Road, the last buildable lot located within the City. After this purchase, Dawson failed to report his ownership of the lot in the statement of economic interest forms that he filed in 2015 and 2016, a violation of the Political Reform Act.

Dawson purchased the lot at 815 Portola Road for \$50,000. The property has no water credits. The previous owner had tried, and failed, to have water credits applied to the property that would have allowed the building of a residence on the lot.

In February of 2016, Dawson contracted with Maggiora Brothers Drilling Inc., using his authority as City Manager. The contract was to have a well drilled on the City owned property of 899 Rosita Road that was then being used as the Del Rey Oaks Garden Center. The project to permit and construct the well at the Garden Center has cost the City of Del Rey Oaks over \$25,000 to date.

On January 27, 2017, three weeks after he no longer had authority to act as City Manager, Dawson simultaneously filed applications with the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to have the water credits from the Garden Center transferred to the City of Del Rey Oaks' water allocation and for the issuance of a water permit for his lot at 815 Portola Drive. On the application to have the water

credits transferred to the City's water allotment, Dawson continued to use City Hall's address and his City Manager email address.

Dawson is charged with a felony violation of Government Code section 1090, for contracting for the well in his capacity as City Manager while having a direct financial interest in obtaining water credits for his purchased lot. It is alleged that once the Garden Center had access to well water, it was Dawson's intention to have the water credits returned to the City of Del Rey Oaks and then applied to his lot at 815 Portola Road. Dawson is further charged with a misdemeanor for violating the Political Reform Act by failing to disclose his ownership of the lot at 819 Portola Road in a mandated form that he filed in 2016.

His felony charge carries a maximum sentence of 3 years in prison and his misdemeanor charge is punishable by up to 6 months in county jail.