

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

DA INVESTIGATION DETERMINES THAT DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS DONALD SEARLE VIOLATED NO STATE LAW

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2018

CONTACT:

**LANA NASSOURA, Deputy District Attorney
(831) 755 – 5255**

**DEAN D. FLIPPO, District Attorney
(831) 755 - 5470**

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that the Monterey County District Attorney's Office completed an investigation concerning allegations made against Monterey County Deputy Director of Public Works Donald Searle. The investigation determined that Searle violated no state law.

The investigation conducted by the District Attorney's Office mainly focused on two allegations made against Searle: (1) Searle took photographs of the clothed genital areas of several men, without their consent or knowledge, and (2) Searle purportedly solicited sexual acts with a young male.

Penal Code Section 647(j)(2) prohibits secretly photographing or recording another person under or through that person's clothing in order to view the person's body or undergarments, without the person's consent or knowledge, for a sexual purpose. Searle's conduct of photographing the outside of males' clothes, which were readily observable by the public, does not constitute a violation of this section, or of any state law, because such photographs do not show anything under or through the males' clothing.

As to the second allegation, the District Attorney's Office conducted an investigation which included a thorough interview of all involved parties, in order to determine whether Searle solicited sexual acts with a young male. There is no evidence to support that Searle communicated with a minor for sexual purposes, or that Searle committed any sexual acts with a minor.

The District Attorney's Office has completed their investigation and has forwarded the results of their investigation to the County Administrator's Office. At this time, no further action by this office is contemplated or warranted.