

JESUS RODRIGUEZ
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BONNIE M. DUMANIS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

San Diego
330 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 531-4040

[San Diego County District Attorney](#)

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For Immediate Release

Contact: [Steve Walker](#) (619) 531-3890
[Tanya Sierra](#) (619) 531-3315

DA Dumanis Files Multiple Felony Charges in South Bay Corruption Case

Yearlong Investigation Reveals Pervasive 'Pay-for-Play' Culture

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) today announced criminal charges against five defendants in a wide-ranging public corruption case involving Sweetwater Union High School District School Board members, the former district superintendent and a South Bay contractor—all of whom were involved in a 'pay-for-play' culture with businesses that were awarded voter-approved bond projects worth hundreds of millions of dollars. The case is believed to be the largest of its kind in San Diego County.

"The widespread corruption we uncovered during our investigation of this case is outrageous and shameful," said DA Dumanis. "For years, public officials regularly accepted what amounted to bribes in exchange for their votes on multi-million dollar construction projects. The corruption was nothing short of systemic. Today's charges begin the process of holding those officials accountable for their actions on behalf of the taxpayers, who footed the bill for lavish dinners, concert and theater tickets, and much more."

Defendants charged include former Sweetwater Union High School Superintendent Jesus Gandara; school board trustees Arlie Ricasa, Pearl Quiñones, and former 16-year board member Greg Sandoval. Also charged is Henry Amigable, a contractor who worked for a construction company hired by the school district.

Felony charges include bribery, perjury, filing a false instrument, influencing an elected official and obtaining a thing of value to influence a member of a legislative body. Additional misdemeanor charges include wrongful influence. If convicted of the charges, defendants face between four and seven years in state prison, as well as fines.

The defendants from the school district, who were entrusted with making decisions on behalf of the best interests of students and schools, received tens of thousands of dollars worth of meals, tickets and hotel stays from construction companies vying for voter-approved bond projects. Shortly after board members received financial favors, they approved contracts with the contractors for bond projects stemming from Sweetwater's \$644 million Proposition O.

Between 2008 and 2011, the defendants frequented San Diego-area restaurants with Amigable and others racking up hundreds of dollars in food and drinks at a time, in some cases reaching more than \$1,000 per outing. Defendants were given Los Angeles Lakers playoff tickets,

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concert tickets, theater tickets, Rose Bowl tickets, Southwest Airlines tickets and a trip to Napa Valley. Officials did not report the gifts on their Statement of Economic Interest, as required by state law. In other instances, administrators and trustees solicited cash for their children's beauty pageants or field trips. They also demanded campaign donations and other favors.

"This case is an excellent example of our office's commitment to prosecuting public integrity cases," Dumanis said. "It also shows how such investigations are, by their very nature, tedious and lengthy. We proceed carefully on public integrity cases and often, the public isn't aware of the work we're doing behind the scenes. But when we discover criminal activity, we act to hold defendants accountable."

The defendants are scheduled to be arraigned on January 13th at 1:30 p.m. in Department 50 of the San Diego County Superior Court downtown.

The District Attorney's investigation is ongoing and additional charges are possible.

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**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
CENTRAL DIVISION**

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
Plaintiff,

v.

JESUS GANDARA,
dob 12/21/56;

GREGORY SANDOVAL,
dob 12/31/53;

PEARL QUINONES,
dob 12/17/52;

ARLIE N. RICASA BAGAPORO,
dob 04/08/64;

HENRY AMIGABLE,
dob 10/31/64;

Defendants

CT No. CD238163
DA No. ADC078

COMPLAINT-FELONY

INFORMATION

Date: _____

COPY

PC296 DNA TEST STATUS SUMMARY

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>DNA Testing Requirements</u>
GANDARA, JESUS	DNA sample required upon conviction
SANDOVAL, GREGORY	DNA sample required upon conviction
QUINONES, PEARL	DNA sample required upon conviction
RICASA-BAGAPORO, ARLIE N.	DNA sample required upon conviction
AMIGABLE, HENRY	DNA sample required upon conviction

CHARGE SUMMARY

<u>Count</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Issue Type</u>	<u>Sentence Range</u>	<u>Special Allegations</u>	<u>Allegation Effect</u>
1	PC118(a) GANDARA, JESUS SANDOVAL, GREGORY	Felony	2-3-4		

CHARGE SUMMARY (cont'd)

Count	Charge	Issue Type	Sentence Range	Special Allegations	Allegation Effect
1	PC118(a) QUINONES, PEARL RICASA-BAGAPORO, ARLIE N.	Felony	2-3-4		
2	PC115(a) GANDARA, JESUS SANDOVAL, GREGORY QUINONES, PEARL RICASA-BAGAPORO, ARLIE N.	Felony	16-2-3		
3	GC87100 GANDARA, JESUS	Misdemeanor	6 Mo/\$10,000		
4	GC87100 SANDOVAL, GREGORY RICASA-BAGAPORO, ARLIE N.	Misdemeanor	6 Mo/\$10,000		
5	GC87100 GANDARA, JESUS	Misdemeanor	6 Mo/\$10,000		
6	GC87100 SANDOVAL, GREGORY QUINONES, PEARL	Misdemeanor	6 Mo/\$10,000		
7	PC118(a) GANDARA, JESUS SANDOVAL, GREGORY QUINONES, PEARL	Felony	2-3-4		
8	PC115(a) GANDARA, JESUS SANDOVAL, GREGORY QUINONES, PEARL	Felony	16-2-3		
9	PC118(a) GANDARA, JESUS SANDOVAL, GREGORY RICASA-BAGAPORO, ARLIE N.	Felony	2-3-4		

CHARGE SUMMARY (cont'd)

<u>Count</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Issue Type</u>	<u>Sentence Range</u>	<u>Special Allegations</u>	<u>Allegation Effect</u>
10	PC115(a) GANDARA, JESUS SANDOVAL, GREGORY RICASA-BAGAPORO, ARLIE N.	Felony	16-2-3		
11	GC87100 GANDARA, JESUS	Misdemeanor	6 Mo/\$10,000		
12	GC87100 RICASA-BAGAPORO, ARLIE N.	Misdemeanor	6 Mo/\$10,000		
13	PC118(a) GANDARA, JESUS SANDOVAL, GREGORY	Felony	2-3-4		
14	PC115(a) GANDARA, JESUS SANDOVAL, GREGORY	Felony	16-2-3		
15	PC85 AMIGABLE, HENRY	Felony	2-3-4		
16	GC9054 AMIGABLE, HENRY	Felony	16-2-3		

PC1054.3

INFORMAL REQUEST FOR DISCOVERY

The undersigned, certifying upon information and belief, complains that in the County of San Diego, State of California, the Defendant(s) did commit the following crime(s):

CHARGES

COUNT 1 - PERJURY BY DECLARATION

On or about April 1, 2008, JESUS GANDARA, GREGORY SANDOVAL, PEARL QUINONES, and ARLIE N. RICASA BAGAPORO, being a person who testified, declared, deposed and certified under penalty of perjury in a case in which such testimony, declaration, deposition and certification is permitted by law under penalty of perjury, to wit: Failed to report gifts and meals from developer, did willfully and unlawfully state as true a material matter which he/she knew to be false, to wit: California Statement of Economic Interest Report - Form 700, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 118(a).

COUNT 2 - FILING FALSE INSTRUMENT

On or about April 1, 2008, JESUS GANDARA, GREGORY SANDOVAL, PEARL QUINONES, and ARLIE N. RICASA BAGAPORO did knowingly and unlawfully procure and offer a false and forged instrument to be filed, registered, and recorded in a public office in the State of California, which instrument, if genuine, might be legally filed, registered and recorded under a law of the State of California or a law of the United States, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 115(a).

COUNT 3 - PUBLIC OFFICIAL - WRONGFUL INFLUENCE

On or about January 28, 2008, JESUS GANDARA, being a public official of a local government, to wit: Sweetwater Unified High School District Superintendent, did unlawfully, knowingly, and willfully make, participate in making and attempt to use his official position to influence a governmental decision in which he knew and had reason to know he had a financial interest, in violation of GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 87100 AND 91000.

COUNT 4 - PUBLIC OFFICIAL - WRONGFUL INFLUENCE

On or about January 28, 2008, GREGORY SANDOVAL and ARLIE N. RICASA BAGAPORO, being a public official of a local government, to wit: Sweetwater Unified High School District Board Member, did unlawfully, knowingly, and willfully make, participate in making and attempt to use his official position to influence a governmental decision in which he knew and had reason to know he had a financial interest, in violation of GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 87100 AND 91000.

COUNT 5 - PUBLIC OFFICIAL - WRONGFUL INFLUENCE

On or about May 20, 2008, JESUS GANDARA, being a public official of a local government, to wit: Sweetwater Unified High School District Superintendent, did unlawfully, knowingly, and willfully make, participate in making and attempt to use his official position to influence a governmental decision in which he knew and had reason to know he had a financial interest, in violation of GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 87100 AND 91000.

CHARGES (cont'd)

COUNT 6 - PUBLIC OFFICIAL - WRONGFUL INFLUENCE

On or about May 20, 2008, GREGORY SANDOVAL and PEARL QUINONES, being a public official of a local government, to wit: Sweetwater Unified High School District Board Member, did unlawfully, knowingly, and willfully make, participate in making and attempt to use his official position to influence a governmental decision in which he knew and had reason to know he had a financial interest, in violation of GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 87100 AND 91000.

COUNT 7 - PERJURY BY DECLARATION

On or about April 1, 2009, JESUS GANDARA, GREGORY SANDOVAL, and PEARL QUINONES, being a person who testified, declared, deposed and certified under penalty of perjury in a case in which such testimony, declaration, deposition and certification is permitted by law under penalty of perjury, to wit: Failed to report gifts and meals from developer, did willfully and unlawfully state as true a material matter which he/she knew to be false, to wit: California Statement of Economic Interest Report - Form 700, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 118(a).

COUNT 8 - FILING FALSE INSTRUMENT

On or about April 1, 2009, JESUS GANDARA, GREGORY SANDOVAL, and PEARL QUINONES did knowingly and unlawfully procure and offer a false and forged instrument to be filed, registered, and recorded in a public office in the State of California, which instrument, if genuine, might be legally filed, registered and recorded under a law of the State of California or a law of the United States, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 115(a).

COUNT 9 - PERJURY BY DECLARATION

On or about April 1, 2010, JESUS GANDARA, GREGORY SANDOVAL, and ARLIE N. RICASA BAGAPORO, being a person who testified, declared, deposed and certified under penalty of perjury in a case in which such testimony, declaration, deposition and certification is permitted by law under penalty of perjury, to wit: Failed to report gifts and meals from developer, did willfully and unlawfully state as true a material matter which he/she knew to be false, to wit: California Statement of Economic Interest Report - Form 700, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 118(a).

COUNT 10 - FILING FALSE INSTRUMENT

On or about April 1, 2010, JESUS GANDARA, GREGORY SANDOVAL, and ARLIE N. RICASA BAGAPORO did knowingly and unlawfully procure and offer a false and forged instrument to be filed, registered, and recorded in a public office in the State of California, which instrument, if genuine, might be legally filed, registered and recorded under a law of the State of California or a law of the United States, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 115(a).

CHARGES (cont'd)

COUNT 11 - PUBLIC OFFICIAL - WRONGFUL INFLUENCE

On or about June 1, 2010, JESUS GANDARA, being a public official of a local government, to wit: Sweetwater Unified High School District Superintendent, did unlawfully, knowingly, and willfully make, participate in making and attempt to use his official position to influence a governmental decision in which he knew and had reason to know he had a financial interest, in violation of GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 87100 AND 91000.

COUNT 12 - PUBLIC OFFICIAL - WRONGFUL INFLUENCE

On or about June 1, 2010, ARLIE N. RICASA BAGAPORO, being a public official of a local government, to wit: Sweetwater Unified High School District Board Member, did unlawfully, knowingly, and willfully make, participate in making and attempt to use his official position to influence a governmental decision in which he knew and had reason to know he had a financial interest, in violation of GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 87100 AND 91000.

COUNT 13 - PERJURY BY DECLARATION

On or about April 1, 2011, JESUS GANDARA and GREGORY SANDOVAL, being a person who testified, declared, deposed and certified under penalty of perjury in a case in which such testimony, declaration, deposition and certification is permitted by law under penalty of perjury, to wit: Failed to report gifts and meals from developer, did willfully and unlawfully state as true a material matter which he/she knew to be false, to wit: California Statement of Economic Interest Report - Form 700, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 118(a).

COUNT 14 - FILING FALSE INSTRUMENT

On or about April 1, 2011, JESUS GANDARA and GREGORY SANDOVAL did knowingly and unlawfully procure and offer a false and forged instrument to be filed, registered, and recorded in a public office in the State of California, which instrument, if genuine, might be legally filed, registered and recorded under a law of the State of California or a law of the United States, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 115(a).

COUNT 15 - GIVING OR OFFERING A BRIBE

On or about and between January 20, 2008 and March 9, 2009, HENRY AMIGABLE did unlawfully give and offer to give a bribe to any member of the Sweetwater Unified High School District, and to another person for the member, and attempted by menace, deceit, suppression of truth, and any corrupt means, to influence a member in giving and withholding his or her vote, and in not attending the house and any committee of which he or she is a member, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 85.

CHARGES (cont'd)

COUNT 16 - OBTAINING THING OF VALUE TO INFLUENCE MEMBER OF A LEGISLATIVE BODY

On or about and between January 20, 2008 and March 9, 2009, HENRY AMIGABLE did unlawfully obtain, and seek to obtain, money and other thing of value from another person upon a pretense, claim, and representation that he or she can or will improperly influence in any manner the action of any member of a legislative body in regard to any vote and legislative matter, in violation of GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 9054.

NOTICE: Any defendant named on this complaint who is on criminal probation in San Diego County is, by receiving this complaint, on notice that the evidence presented to the court at the preliminary hearing on this complaint is presented for a dual purpose: the People are seeking a holding order on the charges pursuant to Penal Code Section 872 and simultaneously, the People are seeking a revocation of the defendant's probation, on any and all such probation grants, utilizing the same evidence, at the preliminary hearing. Defenses to either or both procedures should be considered and presented as appropriate at the preliminary hearing.

Pursuant to PENAL CODE SECTION 1054.5(b), the People are hereby informally requesting that defendant's counsel provide discovery to the People as required by PENAL CODE SECTION 1054.3.

Sheriff's records indicate that as of the booking date one or more defendants have not yet provided a DNA sample to the DOJ database. Pursuant to Penal Code Section 296(e), the court shall order collection of DNA from the defendant(s) if advised by the prosecuting attorney that a sample is required but has not been provided by the defendant. Pursuant to Penal Code sections 296/296.1, if not already required from a past conviction, any defendants who have not done so will be required to provide a sample upon conviction of this felony offense.

I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT THIS COMPLAINT, CASE NUMBER CD238163, CONSISTS OF 16 COUNTS.

Executed at City of San Diego, County of San Diego, State of California, on January 3, 2012.

COMPLAINANT

INFORMATION

BONNIE M. DUMANIS
District Attorney
County of San Diego
State of California
by:

Date

Deputy District Attorney