

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Ex-Pasadena City Official, Contractor Convicted For
\$3 Million Embezzlement Scheme**

A former Pasadena public works analyst and a contractor were convicted today for embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars in city money over a decade, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jurors deliberated for about three days before finding Danny Wooten (dob 4/07/63) guilty of 53 counts, including embezzlement, conflict of interest and misappropriation of public funds. Co-defendant Tyrone Collins (dob 10/12/59) was convicted of 20 counts, including embezzlement and misappropriation of public funds.

Deputy District Attorney Bjorn Dodd of the Public Integrity Division prosecuted the case.

Wooten was a management analyst in the city's Public Works Department, which was in charge of relocating all of the city's utility lines underground. Between 2004 and March 2014, Wooten created false invoices for the underground utility program and stole roughly \$3.5 million.

He funneled some of the stolen money to Collins, who owns Collins Electric, the prosecutor said.

Wooten also created bank accounts purporting to represent two religious organizations. However, he was the only person on the account, the prosecutor said.

The scheme was discovered in 2014 when the city ordered an audit.

Sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 11 in Department 102 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. Wooten faces up to 24 years in state prison, while Collins faces up to 15 years in state prison.

Case BA430233 was investigated by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation and the City of Pasadena.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.