

2020202000—DA-Real Estate Fraud Prosecution

Law & Justice

Tori Verber Salazar, *District Attorney*

General Fund	2017-2018 Actual	2018-2019 Adjusted	2019-2020 Requested	2019-2020 Recommended	Increase/ (Decrease)
Expenditures					
Services & Supplies	\$566,000	\$740,099	\$829,596	\$829,596	\$89,497
Centrally-Budgeted Expenses	794	673	1,409	1,409	736
Total Appropriations	\$566,794	\$740,772	\$831,005	\$831,005	\$90,233
Earned Revenues By Source					
Operating Transfers In	\$566,794	\$740,772	\$831,005	\$831,005	\$90,233
Total Revenues	\$566,794	\$740,772	\$831,005	\$831,005	\$90,233
Net County Cost	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Purpose

California Government Code Section 27388 authorizes counties to impose a recordation fee on certain real estate documents. The fund receives an \$8 recording fee per eligible document. These funds can only be used for programs which enhance the capacity of local district attorneys and local law enforcement to deter, investigate, and prosecute crimes involving real estate fraud.

Major Budget Changes

Services & Supplies

- \$64,497 Increase in program expense for a Legal Technician from 50% to 100%.
- \$25,000 Increase in costs for outreach, training, and public engagement services.

Operating Transfers In

- \$90,233 Increase in reimbursement from Real Estate Fraud Prosecution Trust Fund.

Program Discussion

The 2019-2020 recommended budget for Real Estate Fraud Prosecution totals \$831,005, which is an increase of \$90,233 from the 2018-2019 adjusted budget. The change primarily reflects an increase in staff assigned to this program, and increases in costs for outreach, training, and public engagement services.

Recommended funding in the Real Estate Fraud Prosecution budget for 2019-2020 will be used to reimburse the District Attorney's main and Consumer Fraud Proposition 64 budgets for a Deputy District Attorney, two District Attorney Investigators, and a Legal Technician.

The budget also includes funding for expert witnesses, such as forensic accountants and other experts who specialize in real estate transactions, interpreters, transcribers, outreach, and fleet services expenses.

Real Estate Fraud Prosecution Trust Fund

The Real Estate Fraud Prosecution Trust Fund (#12128) receives revenue from a real estate document recordation fee. Fund proceeds are used to offset costs of deterring, investigating, and prosecuting real estate fraud cases.

The fund balance as of March 31, 2019 was \$1,096,956. Annual revenue is projected at approximately \$603,696 for 2019-2020.

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Workload Data

	-----Actual-----			Est./Act.	Projected
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Real Estate Fraud					
<i>Prosecution Cases</i>	9	8	8	9	10
<i>Investigations</i>	30	20	20	45	45
Mortgage Fraud					
<i>Prosecution Cases</i>	0	1	1	1	0
<i>Investigations</i>	12	6	6	3	3