



TONY RACKAUCKAS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Title Company
Address
City, State, Zip Code

March 5, 2009

SUBJECT: Implementation of new \$3.00 recording fee, effective April 13th-

The volume of real estate fraud cases in Orange County is increasing. These real-estate related crimes now account for nearly one-third of fraud cases investigated by the District Attorney's Major Fraud Unit. To offset the cost of investigating and prosecuting these cases, the Orange County Board of Supervisors has authorized an additional \$3.00 recording fee, beginning April 13, 2009, on certain real estate related documents. The funds generated by this fee will be used by the District Attorney's Office to prosecute, investigate and deter real estate fraud.

This fee is authorized by Section 27388 of the California Government Code and applies to the following documents: Deed of Trust; Assignment of Deed of Trust; Notice of Default; Reconveyance; Request for Notice; Substitution of Trustee; Notice of Trustee Sale; and Notice of Rescission of Declaration of Default. It will not be charged on any other documents.

Twenty-five California counties already are collecting this fee, including Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. Orange County previously declined imposing the fee. The current state budget crisis and continued increase in real estate fraud related crimes have hampered local efforts to prosecute, investigate and deter real estate fraud. Institution of this state-authorized fee will provide an ongoing funding source to be used solely for this purpose.

I'm seeking your interest in serving on an Advisory Board that will meet quarterly to suggest priorities and identify crime trends in our county. More information on the formation of the advisory group will be sent to you in the coming weeks.

For further information or if you have any questions or suggestions about how we can work together to fight real estate fraud in Orange County, please contact Elizabeth Henderson, Assistant District Attorney, Major Fraud Unit at (714) 347-8700 or by email at Elizabeth.henderson@da.ocgov.com.

Sincerely,

Tony Rackauckas
District Attorney

cc: Tom Daly, Clerk-Recorder

On April 13, our department will start collecting an additional \$3.00 on each of the following document titles:

Deed of Trust

Substitution of Trustee

Notice of Trustee Sale

Notice of Default

Request for Notice

Assignment of Deed of Trust

Reconveyance (includes partial)

Notice of Rescission of Declaration of
Default documents