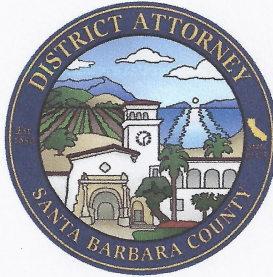


OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
**JOYCE E. DUDLEY**  
District Attorney



DA 04-151

RELEASE NUMBER

April 5, 2013

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Brian Cota, Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT PERSON (805) 568-2300

\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

April 5, 2013

**Former General Manager of Mosquito and Vector Management District Pleads Guilty to  
Misappropriation of Public Funds**

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that on April 5, 2013, Brian Passaro, age 54, pled guilty to a felony charge of misappropriation of public funds.

Mr. Passaro was employed by the Mosquito and Vector Management District (MVMD) from October 2008 until his resignation in October 2011. The MVMD is a special district that is funded by a percentage of property taxes from Santa Barbara County. In the months prior to his resignation the Santa Barbara County Auditor-Controller's Office was contacted regarding the potential misuse of a MVMD credit card by Mr. Passaro. An internal audit of the credit card use by Mr. Passaro was conducted by the Santa Barbara County Auditor-Controller's Office, and the findings were then forwarded to the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office for review and further investigation into any potential criminal charges. In July 2011, the District Attorney's Office filed a felony complaint alleging one count of a violation of Penal Code section 424 (Misappropriation of Public Funds). The district attorney investigation revealed that Mr. Passaro was using the MVMD credit card to make personal purchases unrelated to his employment. The investigation also uncovered that he failed to record 56 hours of vacation which he subsequently was paid for upon his resignation.

District Attorney Joyce Dudley commented that the public deserves to have confidence in their public officials to properly handle the money entrusted to them, and those public servants should and will be held to a high standard. The District Attorney's Office will remain vigilant in the prosecution of anyone who is found to have misappropriated public funds.

Mr. Passaro will be sentenced in September to 3 years felony probation, 160 hours of community work service, 60 days in county jail, and will be ordered to pay \$10,116.24 in restitution. If Mr. Passaro pays a substantial portion of the restitution prior to his sentencing, the jail sentence will be deleted; however, the 160 hours of community work service will remain.

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