

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Former Bell Councilmember Sentenced
To Two Years in State Prison**

Former Bell City Councilwoman Teresa Jacobo was sentenced today to two years in state prison and ordered to pay more than \$242,000 in restitution to the city, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jacobo, 61, is the third of five former council members to be sentenced in a massive public corruption case that nearly bankrupted the city of 35,000.

Deputy District Attorneys Sean Hassett and Edward Miller with the Public Integrity Division were seeking a four-year prison term.

Jurors in March 2013 convicted Jacobo of five counts of misappropriation of public funds. In April of this year, she pleaded no contest to two additional counts of misappropriation of public funds to avoid a retrial.

Jacobo, along with former Mayor Oscar Hernandez and former Councilmembers George Mirabal, George Cole and Victor Bello, were convicted of stealing a total of nearly \$1 million.

Jacobo was appointed to serve on the Bell City Council in 2001 and served continuously until April 11, 2011, when she was thrown out of office by voters.

When she was first appointed, she earned \$434 a month. In four short years, she was earning \$62,000 annually after she and other council members illegally increased their pay and created sham boards that rarely met or only met for a few minutes a year.

"While Ms. Jacobo's sentence of two years in state prison won't make up for all of the harm she caused, it at least offers the people of Bell some measure of justice," Hassett said.

Sentencing for the remaining two defendants is as follows:

July 31 for Hernandez; and Aug. 1 for Bello.

In addition to Jacobo, three other former Bell officials have been sentenced along with Robert Rizzo, Bell's former chief administrative officer and the leading conspirator. Rizzo was sentenced April 16 to 12 years in state prison and ordered to repay \$8.8 million in restitution to the city.

A week earlier, Pier' Angela Spaccia, Bell's former assistant chief administrative officer, was sentenced to 11 years, eight months in state prison and ordered to pay more than \$8.2 million in restitution to the city.

The case was investigated by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation.

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Editor's Note: *At today's court hearing, prosecutors said Jacobo's correct date of birth is 1/30/53.*

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 seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.