

Jackie Lacey

District Attorney
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NEWS RELEASE

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Pair Enter No Contest Pleas in Million-Dollar Fraud Case

The former owner of a used car dealership and an associate pleaded no contest today to underreporting more than \$1 million in California sales tax, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Dagoberto Duenas, 59, of Rosemead, entered his plea to three counts of tax evasion while Mario Ernesto Gonzalez, 52, of Los Angeles, pleaded no contest to two counts of tax evasion.

Both men face up to three years in state prison that would be served in county jail when they are scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 2.

Deputy District Attorney James Belna of the White Collar Crime Division said Duenas, who owned a used car dealership, unlawfully took \$1.04 million from the State of California, while Gonzalez, a business associate, took nearly \$500,000.

The crimes occurred between January 2007 and December 2009.

The case was investigated by the California State Board of Equalization.

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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.