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CASE OF INTEREST

Date: February 19, 2010
Case: June Ann Lucena
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District Attorney Jan Scully announced today that June Ann Lucena has been ordered to pay \$170,309 in restitution to State Compensation Insurance Fund (SCIF) following her December 2007 jury trial conviction on a variety of insurance fraud related charges. Lucena was sentenced to seven years state prison for these offenses. The restitution award to SCIF is in addition to the \$244,400 she was ordered to pay to CalPERS in December 2009.

Lucena had been employed as a correctional officer with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The evidence showed that she suffered a work-related injury, and subsequently began receiving worker's compensation benefits. She also filed for a disability retirement with CalPERS, and received benefits from them in addition to the benefits she received from SCIF. She recovered from her injuries, but continued to claim she was severely restricted in her physical abilities. However, surveillance videos showed her riding a jet ski and going down a water slide without any problems.

Lucena was ordered to pay SCIF's full restitution request of \$170,309, which is the amount of money she fraudulently obtained in disability payments. Additionally, Lucena has been ordered to disclose her financial assets as of the date of her arrest in late 2004.

Deputy District Attorney Debbie Glynn states, "I'm very pleased with the restitution orders in this case. The defendant will have to pay back all of the money that she fraudulently obtained. The final outcome of this case – a seven year prison sentence and a hefty restitution order – will hopefully discourage other individuals from taking advantage of the worker's compensation system."